

Soviets present draft missiles pact

GENEVA (Agencies) — The Soviet Union presented a draft treaty on Monday calling for elimination of all Soviet and U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, Soviet arms delegation spokesman Vladimir Shibanov said. "We have presented a draft treaty. It covers all aspects for an agreement to eliminate medium-range missiles in Europe," he told reporters. Soviet negotiator Alexander Orlov spent more than two hours at the American diplomatic mission in Geneva explaining the draft to a U.S. arms negotiating team led by Maynard Giffman. It was the first detailed document setting out a range of new initiatives on the so-called "Euro-missiles" since Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said in February he was ready to sign a separate pact on such weapons. Shibanov declined to give any further details. U.S. arms delegation spokesman Terry Shroeder declined to comment on the meeting. Mr. Gorbachev outlined his proposals last week in a speech in Moscow. He said the Soviets would propose eliminating both sides' medium-range missiles in Europe over a five-year period, with each side retaining 100 warheads.

Jordan Times

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EC ministers review Mideast

LUXEMBOURG (R) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers began two days of wide-ranging talks on Monday devoted to trade relations with Japan, Middle East peace prospects, and Turkey's application to join the 12-nation trading group. Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans was to report to the meeting on a recent visit he made to the Middle East as current president of the EC Council of Ministers to promote an international peace conference for the region. In February, EC ministers backed the idea of such a conference, to be held under the United Nations' auspices. Mr. Tindemans' visit to Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia followed the community's unexpectedly warm response to the idea. Diplomats said the ministers were to discuss what effect the weekend meeting of the Palestine National Council, was likely to have on peace prospects.

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Ramadan begins today

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mheilan announced on Monday that the month of Ramadan began today, marking the beginning of the holy fasting month of Ramadan on Tuesday, April 28. In a statement issued on the occasion, Sheikh Mheilan extended his greetings to His Majesty King Hussein and wished the Arab and Islamic worlds prosperity and progress.

King congratulates Iraqi president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Monday congratulating him on his 50th birthday. In his cable, King Hussein wished President Hussein continued good health and happiness and the Iraqi people further progress, prosperity and victory.

Holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — All government departments and public institutions will be closed on Saturday, May 2, to mark Labour Day which falls on Friday, May 1, according to an official statement by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. Labour Day is one of the public holidays in Jordan.

Iraqi film week begins in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib on Monday inaugurated an Iraqi film week at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). During the event, organised by the Iraqi embassy in cooperation with the Department of Art and Culture and the RCC, six Iraqi films will be shown. A book exhibition was also held on the occasion.

400 held after protests in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 400 protesters, many chanting the slogan, "the whole world is watching," were arrested Monday as they set down in front of entrances to CIA headquarters during the morning rush hour. The non-violent protest was a major event in three days of demonstrations against President Ronald Reagan's policies in Central America and southern Africa. U.S. Park Police, with jurisdiction over the north gate of the facility in nearby Langley, Virginia, arrested 175 people. Fairfax county, Virginia, police, with jurisdiction over the south gate, arrested more than 200.

Iran expels Australian diplomats

CANBERRA (AP) — Iran is expelling two Australian diplomats after government-funded Australian television broadcast a programme that poked fun at Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Foreign Ministry officials said Monday. The Australian government was "stunned" and worried that produce exports worth several hundred million dollars could be jeopardised, said the officials.

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Egypt closes PLO offices in retaliation for PNC 'insolence'

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt on Monday ordered the closure of all Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) offices in Cairo in retaliation for hostile debates at the Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Algiers.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdul Meguid said in a statement: "Egypt has to put an end to this insolence... and decided to close all PLO offices and institutions in Egypt."

Officials said the PLO was informed of the decision earlier Monday and the offices were closed before the announcement was made.

The statement read by Mr. Abdul Meguid did not specify whether Palestinian officials are being expelled, but its wording indicated they were.

"The Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to close all offices of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the organisations belonging to it (in Egypt) and will take the necessary measures related to this," Mr. Abdul Meguid said.

Diplomatic sources said seven offices of the PLO and related agencies were covered by the order.

The closure was to answer resolutions passed at the weekend by the PNC that referred to previous resolutions highly critical of the Egyptian government.

The PLO and most Arab states severed ties with Egypt after its 1979 treaty with Israel. PLO links were restored after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat visited President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo in November 1983.

But hardline PLO groups at the PNC meeting in Algiers last week insisted that it should not have relations with Egypt. Cairo withdrew its delegation to the conference because it considered the debate hostile to Egypt.

Mr. Abdul Meguid said Monday Egypt had cautioned the PLO leadership before and during the PNC meeting against taking actions prejudicial to Egypt but to no avail.

"It was imperative that Egypt should put an end to this insolence and confront this irresponsible position with the firmness dictated by the supreme national interest and by the necessity of preserving Egypt's dignity," he said.

The PNC resolution, accepted by Mr. Arafat apparently in order to cement a reconciliation with the hardliners within his movement, marked back to a resolution passed by the PNC's 16th session in February 1983 as the basis of future PLO relations with Egypt.

That was unacceptable to Egypt because it called for the Executive Committee to work with "Egypt's nationalists," democratic and popular forces" to force Cairo to abandon its 1979 treaty with Israel.

It also instructed the committee not to normalise relations with "the Egyptian regime" only after it abandoned the process begun by the U.S.-brokered Camp David accords in 1978 that led to the 1979 treaty.

Mr. Abdul Meguid said Monday the PLO's main office in a Cairo suburb before the closure order took effect.

In another suburb, Fathy Arafat, Mr. Arafat's brother, who heads a major hospital operated by the PLO Red Crescent, said he had "heard vaguely about the PLO office closing down" but that he had not been informed.

"I have no information on the subject," he said. "We have not been notified of anything. I am at work here in my office and at the hospital."

Senior PLO representatives in Cairo were not available for comment on the Egyptian decision. They went to Tunis with Mr. Arafat following the PNC meeting in Algiers.

Shortly after Mr. Abdul Meguid spoke, the PLO's information office in downtown Cairo had red tape across its door, sealed with wax, and two Egyptian policemen sat outside. Telephone in several PLO offices went unanswered, AP said.

The break marks the most severe crisis between Egypt and the PLO since Mr. Arafat resumed relations with Cairo in 1983. He came personally to Egypt to thank Mr. Mubarak for his help in providing protection to PLO forces evacuating Lebanon and has been here several times since then.

Mr. Abdul Meguid's statement was uncommonly harsh.

He noted recent Egyptian efforts to bring the PLO into Middle East peace initiatives by working to improve its image with the United States and Israel.

Despite this, he said, "the Palestine National Council adopted a resolution dealing with the relationship between the PLO and Egypt in a hostile manner that disregards the sacrifices Egyptian made in championing the Palestinian people and supporting them in all stages of their struggle."

"The only justification given for this reckless resolution, which was unwarranted and which transgressed on all the realities, was that it was to pay the price needed to satisfy some countries."

Although he did not say so, this was an obvious reference to Syria, which backs PLO hardliners.

In another apparent swipe at Syria, the statement said the PNC acted against Egypt by "closing its eyes and shut its ears to the forces that tried to humiliate the Palestinian people and... went to the point of carrying out physical liquidation and massacres."

Syria expelled Mr. Arafat in 1983.

(Continued on page 4)

Jordan's first test-tube babies reportedly doing well after birth

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Najah Fawaz Dababneh will go down in Jordan's medical records as the first woman to deliver test-tube babies in the Kingdom. She gave birth to a twin on Monday at the Khalidi hospital, hospital sources said.

The two new-born boys, one weighing 2,200 grammes and the other 1,550 grammes, were in the incubator room and in good condition, the hospital sources and nurses who saw the babies told the Jordan Times.

Mrs. Dababneh, whom doctors said was normally recovering, appeared tired and in apparent pain at her hospital room. "I cannot talk now," she said. "Perhaps later."

Dr. Zaid Keilani, the gynaecologist who was on the team that carried the invitro fertilisation operation on Mrs. Dababneh nine months ago, was there to help her deliver the twins along with his team, the hospital sources said.

Contacted by the Jordan Times, Dr. Keilani said that Mrs. Dababneh was admitted to hospital on Monday but said that "she has not delivered yet." He said he would talk about it to the press on Friday at a news conference he was planning to hold. He declined comment on the information obtained by the Jordan Times.

Pediatrician Hassan Far'oon, who was said by hospital nurses to be part of the team, also declined comment referring the Jordan Times to Dr. Keilani.

In an interview published by the Jordan Times on Jan. 20, a member of the same medical team who asked not to be identified said that four test-tube babies were expected to be born "within the next few months."

He said the two sets of twin embryos were "developing well under close medical supervision," and that the two women were in "a very good condition." It was not immediately known who the other woman was.

In the January interview, the doctor said "the formation and development of the fetus was encouraging and going ahead as planned."

"To date," he said, "developments have been good and we expect the births to take place on schedule." He did not give the date for the expected births.

If Mrs. Dababneh is one of the two women fertilised nine months ago, the delivery of the other two babies should be any day now since both women had the implantation operation nearly at the same time.

Invitro fertilisation methods have been developing over the past decade with religious opposition declining over the years, giving more hope for fertile men and women.

The method is usually applied when a woman's fallopian tube is blocked, stopping the ovule from reaching the uterus to be fertilised by the man's sperm. The ovule is thus taken from the woman and fertilised by her husband's sperm in a special test tube before implanting the fertilised ovule in the woman's uterus.

The operation is legal in Jordan and is approved by the Kingdom's religious authorities — "as long as the ovule and the sperm come from the married couple," doctors said.

Similar operations have been successfully carried out in the last three years in Kuwait and Iraq.

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Israelis to deport Birzeit student leader

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli occupation authorities arrested a Palestinian student on Monday and said they planned to deport him from the occupied West Bank for alleged incitement and anti-Israel activities.

Marwan Barghouti is president of the student council at Birzeit University in the West Bank. Israeli officials alleged that Mr. Barghouti, from Ramallah, was involved in activities in support of the Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

He is the 12th Palestinian to face expulsion since Israel adopted an "iron fist" policy against Palestinian nationalists in the occupied territories in August 1985. No expulsion date was announced.

In another development, the Israeli authorities have ordered that Talal Abu Dara, a resident of Balata refugee camp near Nablus, be held in "administrative detention" for three months.

Under regulations dating back to the British mandate in Palestine, Israeli authorities detain without trial any person regarded as "endangering security."

The Palestinian Council of Higher Education sharply condemned Israeli policies in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip at a news conference on Monday.

Israeli authorities closed Birzeit for four months earlier this month after student demonstrations.

Three Birzeit students have been killed by Israeli troops during protests there in the past months.

The council said another Palestinian university, Al Najah, had been closed by the Israelis for a total of 102 days during the academic year and Bethlehem University was closed for 39 teaching days.

"The council sees these measures as aimed at eliminating these institutions and undermining their academic mission and their role as Palestinian national institutions that work for the benefit of Palestinians under occupation," a statement released at the press conference said.

Mr. Nasrallah said that Hizbollah holds the 5,900-strong U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) "responsible" for the killing of its fighters.

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Jordan and Tunisia discuss efforts for peace conference and bilateral ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Tunisia Monday opened meetings at the Foreign Ministry in Amman to discuss general Arab affairs, the Middle East question and bilateral relations.

The talks were conducted by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and his Tunisian counterpart Al Hadi Al Mabrouk, who arrived in Amman Sunday evening on a three-day official visit to Jordan.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the talks centred on current efforts being made to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices.

The agency said both sides to the Amman meeting expressed satisfaction with the high level relations between Jordan and Tunisia in all fields and emphasised the need for more efforts to bolster these relations.

Both sides also called for more consultations, contacts and visits between the two countries at all levels and for promoting economic and trade cooperation and exchanging visits by tourist groups, Petra continued.

It said that the two sides will issue a statement summing up the talks upon the conclusion of Mr. Mabrouk's visit to Jordan on Tuesday.

After the talks, the Tunisian minister and his accompanying delegation visited the Greco-Roman city of Jerash and were briefed on its historical background and its touristic importance.

Later on Monday, Mr. Masri hosted a dinner in honour of Mr. Mabrouk. The dinner was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Majali, Cabinet members, members of Arab diplomatic corps in Jordan and senior officials.

Tunisian Ambassador to Jordan Saïd Ibn Mustafa earlier held a reception in honour of the visiting minister. The reception was attended by senior Jordanian officials and members of Arab diplomatic missions in Amman.

In an interview with Reuters, Mr. Mabrouk said the Palestinians had the right to take their own decisions and choose their own methods of struggle.

He declined to comment directly on Egypt's decision to close all Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) offices in Cairo, but said the Palestinians knew their own interests best.

"This decision was taken within the framework of Egyptian-Palestinian relations and the exercise of Egyptian sovereignty," he told Reuters.

On Muslim fundamentalist violence in Tunisia, Mr. Mabrouk said the press had exaggerated the extent of the disturbances.

"The kind of society we have, with its moral lassitude, requires a return to religion, but we must differentiate between that and the exploitation of religion for political reasons," he said.

He said Tunisia was a democratic country which did not impose any ideology on its people and had an active opposition participating in political life.

"We have a development process now and we will not permit chaos and attempts to upset the regime to interfere with it," he said. Mr. Mabrouk leaves Amman on Tuesday.

At the conclusion of the Kuwaiti conference, a joint Jordanian-Kuwaiti committee was set up to pursue contacts with representatives of the investment sectors in both countries and study the feasibility of projects discussed during the meeting.

The committee includes KFAED Director-General Badr Al Humeidi, KGIC official Fahd Al Rashid and Mustafa Shamali, under-secretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance.

On the Jordanian side, the committee includes Ministry of Industry and Trade Under-Secretary Mohammad Saqqaf, Central Bank of Jordan Deputy Governor Maher Shukri and

(Continued on page 4)

Iraq reports beating back Iranians; Soviets call for U.N. intervention

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said Monday its armed forces beat back an Iranian attack on an outpost in the northeastern front and forced the Iranians to flee with intense artillery fire.

A statement carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the pre-dawn fighting on Monday was "decisively settled in favour of victorious Iraqi armed forces."

Iran claimed earlier that its commandos had punched 25 kilometres into northeast Iraq. Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted military communiqués as saying the Iranians have "liberated" 41 villages and captured more than 250 square kilometres of eastern Sulaimaniyeh province.

IRNA said ground forces also crossed the Qezel river northwest of the provincial capital Monday

and stormed the northern slopes of the Gamou and Shakhshah ranges. IRNA said 14 "strategic heights" were overrun.

In Moscow meanwhile, a senior Soviet official was quoted as calling for U.N. Security Council action to end the almost seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

"The Soviet Union supports the proposal by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on holding a meeting of the U.N. Security Council at foreign ministers' level to discuss the issues connected with ending the war," the Soviet news agency TASS quoted Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky as saying.

Mr. Petrovsky, who has been on a tour of the Middle East, made his statement to a TASS correspondent in Baghdad, the news agency said.

Mr. Petrovsky said the idea of Security Council intervention also was supported by other Arab states he has visited during his trip, which has included stops in Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

In another development, Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali left Rabat on Monday for Moscow at the head of an Arab delegation to explain to Soviet leaders their views on the Iran-Iraq war, the official Moroccan news agency MAP said.

The mission was decided at a meeting of Arab League ministers in Tunis last month.

Austria rejects U.S. move and recalls envoy

VIENNA (R) — Austria on Monday categorically rejected a U.S. decision to deny Austrian President Kurt Waldheim entry to the United States as a private individual, and recalled its Washington ambassador for consultations.

"This decision ... causes Austria deep dismay and is categorically rejected," Foreign Minister Alois Mock said in a statement after the U.S. Justice Department announced a bar on the Austrian head of state. Mr. Mock said the U.S. administrative measure against Dr. Waldheim did not accord with a single European legal convention on evidence and proof, he added. The Austrian ambassador to Washington had been recalled for consultations, he said.

Abraham Sofaer, the department's legal adviser, prepared the case for putting Dr. Waldheim on the "watch list," officials quoted by AP said.

Dr. Waldheim's diplomatic status as head of state would allow him to visit the United States, but such a trip would be highly embarrassing and an invitation from President Ronald Reagan would be unlikely.

Eastland declined to say what circumstances if any would warrant such a visit.

After a long investigation, the Justice Department placed Dr. Waldheim on its special immigration "watch list" of persons barred from entering the country because of assisting Adolf Hitler's Nazis in acts of persecution.

Dr. Waldheim repeatedly has denied allegations that he was involved in Nazi atrocities. Secretary of State George P. Shultz, who participated in the decision to put Dr. Waldheim on the watch list, symbolically snubbed him on a visit to Vienna last November for U.S.-Soviet arms talks by not making a traditional call on the Austrian president.

Life returns to normal in Beirut after strikes

BEIRUT (R) — Life returned to normal in Lebanon Monday after a three-day nationwide strike in protest at economic hardship, but factional disputes continued to cripple the "national unity" government.

Banks, shops, schools and businesses reopened and traffic clogged streets in Beirut, but the Lebanese army, angered at snipers who killed a corporal last week, kept shut a main road across the "green line" battlefield dividing the capital.

Antoine Bichara, head of the General Labour Federation which called the strike, has threatened new stoppages unless the government takes action to curb inflation and meet pay demands.

"We are headed for an indefinite escalation in the strike unless the state sympathises with the people after 12 years of civil war," he told federation members Sunday.

Mr. Bichara urged cabinet ministers and parliament to meet daily in emergency session to deal with an economic crisis marked by the near-collapse of the Lebanese pound, soaring prices, rising unemployment and a worsening recession.

The pound closed Monday at 118 to the dollar, down from 114.75 last Wednesday on the eve of the strike. The currency was worth 18 to the dollar at the beginning of 1986 and has lost 28 per cent of its international value so far this year.

The government appears largely paralysed by political rifts between its Falangist and opposition members, who are due to resume talks on the economy next Thursday, a week after their first meeting in seven months.

Sunni Muslim Prime Minister Rashid Karami has urged the implementation of measures outlined at last week's session, but Falangist, led by Finance Minister Camille Chamoun, have insisted that official decisions can only be taken at a full cabinet session chaired by President Amin Gemayel.

The full cabinet last met in October 1985. Muslim ministers have refused to meet the Falangist president since he rejected a Syrian-backed peace pact for Lebanon in January 1986.

Although the strike was widely observed, there were no marches or demonstrations and few Lebanese seemed to believe it would be effective.

"An open strike was needed to make those responsible for the situation really feel the impact. The three-day strike was just a vacation for workers," said Saeed, 41, a father of three.

"How can the strike achieve its aim when the state is bankrupt and its resources are in the hands of militias?" Samia, a 49-year-old housewife, asked.

Mr. Karami said last week the state had collected only 200 million pounds (\$1.6 million) in revenue in 1986, against budget projections of four billion pounds (\$33 million).

A banking source said the measures outlined by ministers last week — a return to state control of ports and other public utilities and the reopening of crossing points between Christian east and mainly Muslim west Beirut — would help alleviate the crisis.

"But an effective solution lies in reconciliation among the conflicting parties (in the civil war)," the source said.

Syrian-Lebanese talks on ways to end the civil war and reconcile Falangist and opposition factions through political reforms have been stalled for several weeks.

Fundamental differences on Syria's role in Lebanon are at the root of sectarian wrangling.

Mr. Karami said at the weekend that the presence of the Syrian army, now in control of west Beirut as well as much of east and north Lebanon, had "preserved the existence of Lebanon."

Mr. Chamoun, who is close to hardline Falangist militia leader Samir Geagea, said in reply: "It's the Syrian army's presence which is a danger to Lebanon's existence."

Despite the recriminations, Shi'ite Muslim parliament speaker Hussein Huseini, who convened the ministerial meeting, said Sunday night a date for resuming the dialogue between Damascus and representatives of Mr. Gemayel would be set this week, Beirut newspapers reported.

Kuwait investigates car bomb explosion

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwaiti security forces Monday investigated a car-bomb blast at an oil complex close to several other bomb incident sites over the past year.

The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said a booby-trapped car exploded Sunday in a parking lot at Kuwait Petroleum Company (KPC) buildings in Ahmadi Port 32 kilometres south of the capital. There were no casualties.

The State Security Court this month began the trial in camera of 16 Kuwaiti men, four of them still at large, for sabotage at key oil sites in July 1986 and January this year.

They were charged in connection with bombings at and near Ahmadi, hub of the country's oil refining and export operations, and a car bombing near KPC's Kuwait City headquarters.

Newspapers Monday quoted the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, in a speech before Sunday's blast, as urging the nation to maintain "vigilance in the face of the enemies of Kuwait who try to undermine our security."

"We have no ambitions against anybody, but we will not permit anyone to encroach on our dignity, independence or stability," he was quoted as saying.

"We are determined to continue our policy of even-handedness towards the superpowers, friendship towards all states and non-interference to anyone."

Kuwait has drawn heavy criticism from Tehran over its backing for Iraq in the Gulf war, and for involving the superpowers in moves to ship oil safely.

Of the last 20 shipping attacks attributed to Iraq in the so-called Gulf "tanker war," maritime extension of the ground conflict, most were against vessels trading with Kuwait.

Benjedid pardons human rights activists

ALGERIA (R) — President Abdelkader Benjedid Monday pardoned human rights activists who were released after being granted a pardon by President Chadli Benjedid, the official news agency (APS) said.

They included Faouzi Rebeine, a leader of the outlawed Algerian League of Human Rights, who was jailed for 10 years on Dec. 25, 1985, for "threatening state authority by incitement," distribution of tracts and creating an illegal organisation.

At an earlier trial in 1985, 22 members of the group who faced the same charges were jailed for terms ranging from six months to three years. One of them, pop singer Ferhat Mehenni, was among those freed Sunday.

Palestinians differ on benefits of PNC meeting

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian leaders in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip expressed divergent views Monday on whether the Algiers meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) was beneficial to their cause.

Supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which enjoys strong support among the 1.3 million Palestinians in the occupied areas, hailed the PNC meeting as marking a new united stand among nationalists. Others said the meeting that ended Sunday made errors that would perpetuate Israeli occupation.

Israeli officials said they were proved correct in predicting that the council, the PLO's "parliament-in-exile," would adopt what they called extremist stands by which the organisation would eliminate itself from the Middle East peace process.

The Israelis had predicted that reconciliation between PLO leader Yasser Arafat and breakaway radical Palestinian groups would be mostly beneficial to the leftists.

Israeli officials said the most lasting results of the meeting were decisions to abrogate publicly the PLO's political cooperation agreement with Jordan and effectively reduce ties with Egypt.

However, Israeli officials looked less certain Monday than before that they might now find local Palestinians to come forward to negotiate with them.

One analyst of local Arab opinion, Sami Al Abundi, news editor of the nationalist weekly Al Fajr, said West Bank and Gaza reactions to the PNC meeting were predictable.

"My newspaper carried out a poll last year showing about three-quarters of people in the occupied areas support PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. The same people today support his stance in Algiers," Mr. Abundi told Reuters.

Among Palestinians expressing satisfaction with the results of the PNC meeting was Gaby Baramki, respected president of Bizeit University. He said the PNC not only revived national unity, "but drew away from Syria those

Palestinian movements once influenced by that country."

Ismael Taziz, head of the "W. Bank Pharmacists' Association" and a supporter of hard-line stances, said the gains of the PNC meeting were useful in clarifying positions towards Egypt and opening the way for better ties with Syria.

Opposing views were expressed by Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, who said many local residents were disappointed and that PNC decisions had set the peace process back at least six months.

The strongest critical reaction came Sunday from Rashid Shawwa, deposed mayor of Gaza. He said the PNC was guilty of blunders and described cancelling the Feb. 11 accord with Jordan as "a joke."

Mr. Shawwa, a veteran of anti-Israeli causes, said local Palestinians felt they had been let down and no truly helpful decision had been taken.

Weizman ready to meet Arafat

Meanwhile Israeli Cabinet

Minister Ezer Weizman said he accepted an invitation to meet Mr. Arafat at the United Nations but set conditions Mr. Arafat was unlikely to meet.

A spokesman for the dovish former defence minister, now a minister without portfolio, said Weizman was told that Mr. Arafat made the invitation in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo.

"Minister Weizman has not heard the interview but he has no problems about meeting Arafat," spokesman Arye Shamer told Reuters.

"Minister Weizman's only condition is that Arafat must renounce terrorism and accept U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338," Shamer said.

The PNC Sunday reaffirmed its support for the armed struggle against Israel and again rejected Resolution 242, which implicitly recognises Israel's right to exist and mentions the Palestinians only as a refugee problem.

Last week, Weizman said Israel would ultimately have to negotiate with the PLO, with which it refuses all contact.

Ethiopia's civil war drags on unacknowledged

By Robert Powell
Reuters

ASMARA, Ethiopia — Officially, the 26-year-old war of secession in Ethiopia's northern province of Eritrea does not exist. It is never mentioned in official statements by the Soviet-backed Marxist government in Addis Ababa. Since few foreigners receive permission to visit this arid mountainous region on the Red Sea coast, little news of the fighting filters through to the outside world.

But the 28 Soviet-built fighter-bombers and 16 camouflaged helicopters at Asmara's heavily defended airport remind the visitor that this is a war zone.

The airport is surrounded by trenches, reinforced every few hundred meters by machine gun nests and tanks sitting in shallow pits.

According to local residents, rebels attacked it twice last year. In January, a commando group penetrated the airfield's heavy defences and spent 30 minutes blowing up planes, while in June the rebels bombed a military barracks on the airfield.

Virtually no fighting has been reported in Asmara itself, a pleasant city built by the Italians, 2,300 metres above sea level in the cool of the Eritrean highlands.

The atmosphere is tense and like most towns in Ethiopia, Asmara is subject to a midnight to 5 a.m. curfew.

Public buildings are sand-bagged and guarded, several streets are blocked off for security reasons and military trucks with machine guns mounted in the rear cruise the town.

Asmara and the nearby port of Massawa have remained in government hands and since 1978 the authorities have controlled most other towns in the province.

But the arid mountainous countryside is dominated by guer-

illas of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and two smaller separatist movements, according to diplomatic sources. The EPLF also controls a zone round Nakfa in the north west corner of Eritrea.

Only the heavily guarded road from Massawa, which winds 115 kilometres up the East African rift valley escarpment to Asmara and on 90 kilometres to Karen is considered safe.

Even on this route, travel is allowed only in daylight under guard of army posts on every strategic hilltop. On most other roads, including those linking Eritrea to the rest of Ethiopia, traffic moves only in specially escorted convoys.

The Red Sea coast is largely Muslim and for centuries it remained beyond the effective control of Ethiopia's Christian emperors, based in the central highlands.

Italian colonial rule from 1889 to 1941 further enhanced Eritrea's sense of separate identity but it was finally incorporated into Ethiopia as an autonomous province in 1952.

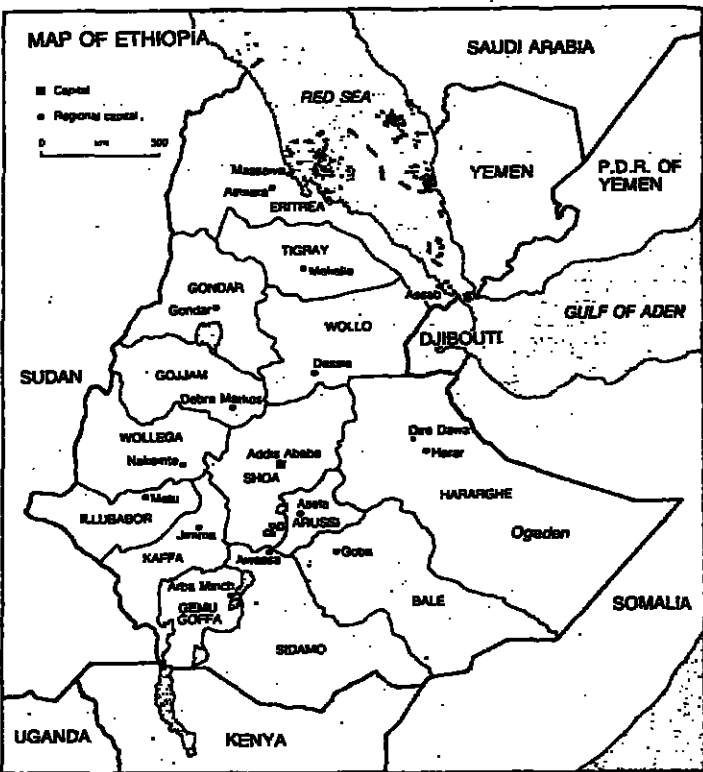
The late Emperor Haile Selassie was never keen on Eritrean autonomy and abolished it in 1962, provoking a guerrilla rebellion which continues to this day.

From the outset, the secessionist movement was strongly Islamic and Marxist in nature and was heavily supported by Cuba and the Soviet Union.

Communist backing disappeared after Haile Selassie was overthrown in 1974 and a pro-Soviet military government emerged in Addis Ababa.

The rebels took advantage of the political crisis to make sweeping advances and by mid-1977 they controlled the whole of Eritrea, except for the besieged towns of Asmara and Massawa.

Soviet military aid and bitter fighting among the rebels enabled the government to mount a



successful counter-offensive. By the end of 1978, it has recaptured all of Eritrea's main towns and pushed the guerrillas back into the province's mountains.

Since then there has been a military stalemate, complicated by the emergence of a new guerrilla movement in neighbouring Tigray province.

Diplomatic sources say that occasionally one side advances a little against the other, or two towns falling to the guerrillas for a few months before being recaptured by the army.

The rebels have only managed to maintain unbroken control of their mountain stronghold in Nakfa, they say.

According to the sources, both the Eritrean guerrillas and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) receive arms and finance from various Arab states. But

despite Islamic backing, they remain Marxist, anti-Soviet and anti-American in outlook.

Some of the rebel armies are channelled overland through Sudan, where an estimated 800,000 Ethiopians live in refugee camps just over the border.

The guerrillas' military strength is difficult to gauge, but according to the diplomatic sources, the EPLF holds 8,000 to 10,000 captured soldiers and the TPLF a smaller, but still considerable number.

The last major battle known to have taken place was at Sekota, a remote town in Tigray province on Nov. 7, the sources said.

A force of 5,000 TPLF guerrillas captured the town from two brigades of government troops, numbering about 6,000 men, in a battle which cost the army heavy losses, they said.

Shamir arrives in Paris

PARIS (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir began a four-day official visit to France Monday reiterating his opposition to the idea of an international conference on Middle East peace.

Prime Minister Jacques Chirac welcomed Shamir and they held a short round of talks but made no statements.

Shamir, who is to hold further talks with Mr. Chirac and Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, said before leaving for France that he continued to favour direct talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

"A conference will not serve the cause of peace," he said. "On the contrary, there is a danger it will stop it."

The idea of an international peace conference, which has won the support of European nations, Egypt, Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Soviet Union, has caused considerable friction within the Israeli government.

The rightwing Likud prime minister aims to sway official French support for such a conference, which is also backed by Israel's Labour Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who visited France

in January.

Mr. Mitterrand, who is to meet Shamir on Wednesday, said last week in Morocco that an international peace conference was desirable if not imminent.

French officials said the discussions this week would also touch on the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories.

They said Shamir would be asked to specify whether Israel was ready to negotiate on the fate of all or part of the territories.

"If a conference takes place, the future of a part of the territories will have to be negotiated," said an official, who declined to be identified.

Apparent moves by Israel and the Soviet Union to normalise relations, one of many stumbling blocks to a regional peace process, will also be discussed.

In an interview with the overseas French state network Radio France Internationale Monday, Shamir said recent signs of Soviet willingness to ease strain were "symbolic, public relations moves, with no concrete changes."

He said Moscow had failed to open the doors to Jews who wanted to emigrate.

Iran puts navy 'in full combat readiness'

LONDON (R) — The commander of the Iranian navy said that Iran had over 80 ships "in full combat readiness" to counter any threat in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported.

It said Captain Mohammad Hussein Malekzadeh briefed President Ali Khamenei on the navy's strength and expansion at a meeting in Tehran Sunday.

Capt. Malekzadeh said that "more than 80 warships, frigates, missile-launchers and logistic ships together with helicopters and hovercrafts, the number of which he said was unprecedented in Iranian naval history, are in full combat readiness," it reported.

Mr. Khamenei, who heads Iran's Supreme Defence Council, "gave further guidelines on the navy's confrontation with enemies' plots in the region," added the agency, received in London.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	Koran
15:30	Programme Review
15:55	Cartoons and children's programme
16:50	Different Strokes
17:20	Traditional Medicine in Africa
18:20	Local series
19:20	Local Programme
19:50	Programme Review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:35	Arabic series
21:20	Local debate on legal issues
22:00	Songs from the movies (Arabic)
23:00	News Summary in Arabic
23:10	Religious programme and close down
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Adjour'at le vie
18:30	Ecole de l'ans
19:00	News in French
19:15	News Summary in Arabic
19:45	News in Hebrew
20:00	Varieties
20:30	News in English
21:00	Yesterday's Dreams
22:00	News in English
22:20	The Unknown War (documentary)
23:10	Bergare
RADIO JORDAN	
SSS KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & party on 95.0 KHz. SW Tel: 77111-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsweek
08:30	News Summary
09:00	News Summary
09:30	Just a Minute
10:00	Follow the Wind
10:30	News Summary
11:00	30-Minute Theatre
11:30	News Summary
12:00	Pop Session Cont.
12:30	News Bulletin
13:00	Just a Minute
13:30	Concert Hour
14:00	News Summary
14:30	Instrumentals
15:00	Old Favourites
15:30	Men from the Ministry
16:00	Pop Session
16:30	Sports Roundup
17:00	Music
17:30	News Day
18:00	News Day
18:30	Date with a Star
19:30	Evening Show

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of children's books from Britain at Abdul Hameed Shams Foundation in Shamsi (April 26-28)

* An art exhibition by Ahmad Na'wash at the French Cultural Centre (until May 6)

* An art exhibition by Samer Obiedat and Isam Al Sabah at the Housing Bank Gallery.

* 2nd Spring Festival for children, at the Royal Cultural Centre, (until April 28)

* The ABC News at 7:30 p.m. at the American Centre.

* "Murder on the Orient Express" at 7:30 p.m. at the British Council.

* The ABC News at 7:30 p.m. at the American Centre.

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* The ABC News at 7:30 p.m. at the American Centre.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at Queen Alia International Airport Tel: (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

08:00 Athens (RJ)

08:25 Cairo (RJ)

08:35 Jeddah (RJ)

08:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

09:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)

09:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

09:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)

09:45 Athens (RJ)

10:00 Paris, Frankfurt (RJ)

10:15 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)

10:30 Rome (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

13:20 Cairo (MS)

15:00 Moscow (SU)

15:35 Kuwait (KU)

17:00 Riyadh (SV)

08:30 Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (IA)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local currency rates in J.O.D.

Belgian franc 167.79

Dutch guilder 82.78

French franc 55.1

Italian lire 25.5

Japanese yen (for 100) 235.4

Swedish crown 52.4

Swiss franc 228.8

U.S. dollar 327.8

W. German mark 183.8

PRAYER TIMES

06:25 Fajr

06:50 (Shamsi) Dhuhr

12:35 Asr

16:12 'Ahr

19:16 Maghreb

20:42 'Isha

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

An increase in temperature is expected, with northwesterly moderate winds. In Asmara, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

Amman Min./max. temp. 7/21

Asmara 14/28

Khayyat, Saudi officials discuss Haj arrangements

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Monday returned home after a several-day visit to Saudi Arabia where he and Saudi officials discussed bilateral relations in religious and pilgrimage (Haj) fields.

Dr. Khayyat said he and his Saudi counterpart discussed arrangements for the pilgrimage to Mecca for Jordanians and pilgrims from the occupied Arab territories. The arrangements, he said, will provide services and facilitate the pilgrimage by making available good transportation and comfortable accommodation

in pilgrimage areas.

He added that the ministry will soon issue regulations for the pilgrimage season after the ministry of Haj (pilgrimage) and Awqaf in Saudi Arabia draws up this year's regulations and procedures.

The minister added that he and Saudi officials discussed setting up a permanent camp in Mount Arafat for Jordanian pilgrims and a second camp in Mena.

Dr. Khayyat went on to say that he also discussed the possibility of allowing Egyptian pilgrims to perform the Haj to Mecca via Jordan.

AARRO decides to establish audit office, raise efficiency

AMMAN (Petra) — An executive committee of the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation (AARRO) held a meeting here Monday under the chairmanship of Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al

Jaber, and decided on establishing an audit office to conduct work for the India-based AARRO.

The meeting also discussed measures aimed at raising the efficiency and performance of regional offices.

Husseini fixes post office hours for month of Ramadan

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Communications Muhieddine Hussein Monday issued a communique fixing the office hours for various post offices during the holy month of Ramadan. Mr. Hussein said that post offices with switch boards will continue to work around the clock, including Fridays and official holidays, while office hours at the Amman central post office will be from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., including

Fridays and official holidays during the fasting month of Ramadan.

The minister fixed the office hours for main post offices in the governorates, district centres and in the various areas of Amman from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. throughout the week, excluding Fridays and official holidays when office hours will be from 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Cabinet forms committee to reclassify contractors

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Monday approved a recommendation by the Ministry of Public Works to form a committee for the reclassification of grade one contractors. The committee comprises the director of the government tenders department as chairman, the president of the Jordan Contractors Association (JCA) and a representative for each of the Jordan Engineers' Association, the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Central Bank of Jordan and two representatives for the Ministry of Public Works.

The Cabinet also approved the minister of public works recommendation that a special committee be formed and entrusted with reclassifying grade six contractors. The committee will be headed by vice president of the JCA and will group a representative from each of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Public Works, the Greater Amman Council and the engineers' association.

Also Monday the Cabinet endorsed a health cooperation agreement between Jordan and Sudan. The agreement, which will be signed within the next few days, aims at developing and bolstering existing cooperation between both countries in the health related affairs.

Provincial governors call for timely decentralisation

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in a three-day symposium on provincial governors and their role in development Monday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein expressing their gratitude for His Majesty's efforts in support of development in various economic, social and administrative fields.

They also sent a cable to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, voicing appreciation for his leading role in development efforts and efforts to improve provincial planning.

The symposium, which concluded here on Monday, recommended a number of measures

designed to cope with the recent changes brought about by the five-year development plan. The symposium called for work towards decentralisation at the provincial levels. This should be done, according to the symposium, by a specific schedule.

The participants in the symposium, who are mainly governors and district officers, stressed the need to implement the new administrative system, whereby each province is to be divided into local administrative units, such as governorates and is to have legal status and independence. Such units will be headed by governors who will act as representatives of the executive power.

Graduates face new economic challenges, CSC president says

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Ibrahim Izzeddin Monday said that Jordan has faced many challenges since the mid-seventies, and that they were brought about both by the development process and by the oil revolution. He said that the political, economic and social situations throughout the Arab World also contributed to creating these challenges. Jordan's response, he said, has been to increase enrollment in schools and universities and widen communications and contacts with the world.

Addressing students of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), Mr. Izzeddin reviewed the problems facing graduates and ways of overcoming them. He pointed out that there are new ideas and proposals for overcoming these problems, particularly among graduates.

Speaking about administrative reform, Mr. Izzeddin said that administrative reform does not only mean tackling administrative aspects, but it should be a political, administrative, economic, and social effort aimed at making constructive changes.

He added that the Royal Commission for Administrative Reform has gone a long way in tackling issues obstructing the administrative development in Jordan. The committee has examined legislation and regulations governing the administrative development process and the interrelations among various government departments. It has also approved an organisational formula, under which all government departments could perform their activities efficiently and effectively, thus enabling them to speed the development pace.

Speaking on the new civil service regulation, Mr. Izzeddin said it reflected increased attention to administrative development and put it into an effective institutional framework. It also represents the first steps in a process of rationalisation of posts, because it attempts to reconcile merit and justice, Mr. Izzeddin said.

He went on to say that the number of graduates has overburdened the local markets. Moreover, the growing number of graduates have coincided with a decrease in demand for labour in the Gulf countries; the result was a return of workers to Jordan.

Arab organisations, industries discuss joint economic action

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has opened its doors for joint Arab action and pan-Arab projects and is housing numerous Arab organisations and continues to host pan-Arab conferences in a bid to achieve greater inter-Arab cooperation and prosperity for the Arab World, Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan said here Monday.

The minister was addressing a two-day meeting organised by the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID) held to discuss means of promoting the work of pan-Arab companies.

He said that the Arab summit meeting held in Amman in 1980 endorsed a joint Arab economic strategy which served as a guide-

line for all pan-Arab economic endeavours. This current meeting is part of joint Arab economic action and serves as a forum for coordinating economic efforts by different Arab states, the minister said. The AOID meeting held in Damascus in 1984 endorsed a number of industrial projects which could be jointly implemented by Arab countries and serve as an essential element in Arab industrial integration, the minister added.

He said that the AOID is currently involved in enlisting Arab countries' support for implementing joint industrial projects, and that this effort requires close coordination among Arab countries and between these countries and the AOID.

The AOID meeting in Amman coincides with a conference in Kuwait for promoting investments in Jordan and orienting Arab investors on opportunities available for them in the Kingdom, the minister continued. He said Jordan appreciates the AOID's decision to hold its meeting here and said that Jordan will offer all facilities for cooperation with Arab states.

The opening session was later addressed by Iraqi Minister of Industry Hatem Abdul Rashid, who also chairs the meetings. He said that the meetings are designed to arrive at a practical formula, enabling Arab countries to work together and make pan-Arab industrial schemes achieve success.

Khatib highlights Jordan's role in working for peace

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib said that His Majesty King Hussein has focused, in his contacts at the Arab and international levels, on reaching a just and durable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international peace conference. The conference would be attended by all parties concerned, and the five permanent member countries of the U.N. Security Council.

Speaking at the opening of a seminar Monday at Yarmouk

University involving students from the mass communication and journalism department and students from other faculties, Mr. Khatib stressed that Jordan, in its endeavours to achieve Arab unity, has been working towards mending inter-Arab differences in order to achieve a unified and influential Arab stand.

The Jordanian media, Mr. Khatib said, has focussed on keeping in touch with Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories to support their steadfastness.

U.S. war college team looks into regional developments

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry Tayseer Touqan Monday received a visiting delegation from the U.S. National War College to review developments in the Palestine question and Jordan's position on finding a just, comprehensive and durable peace for the region. Mr. Touqan stressed Jordan's stand, calling for holding an international peace conference to be attended by all parties involved in the Middle East conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and the five permanent member states of the United Nations Security Council.

Mr. Touqan explained Jordan's stand on the Gulf war to the delegation and said that Jordan

supports Iraq in its war. He pointed out that Iraq has always announced its acceptance of a peaceful settlement to the war and has responded to all international efforts aimed at putting an end to this destructive conflict. Mr. Touqan expressed hope that world countries would stop supplying Iran with arms and called for intensified international efforts to convince Iran to accept a peaceful solution to the war.

Earlier on Monday Army Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleh received Rear Admiral John Addams, head of the U.S. National War College and reviewed military situation in the region. The meeting was attended by the U.S. military attache in Amman.

UAE minister tours agricultural stations, projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Al Hmoud Monday accompanied visiting UAE Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Sa'id Mohammad Ruqbani on a tour to Hussein Agricultural Station in Baqaa, the Zarqa Basin Development Project and King Talal Dam.

In Baqaa, the minister was briefed on the activities of the National Centre for Research and Transfer of Technology, which is part of the Hussein Agricultural Station.

Mr. Ruqbani then was briefed on the Zarqa Basin Development Project and its role in preventing soil erosion, preserving production capacity of arable land and the storing capacity of King Talal Dam. Mr. Ruqbani also visited Al Faisal nursery in Jerash, where he was briefed about its role in agricultural development by providing farmers with fruit-bearing and forest trees.

On Sunday, the visiting minister toured the central Jordan Valley area and the Dead Sea. His tour included the Agricultural Products Marketing Centre, the Jordan Valley Authority centre and the Department of Agriculture's office in the central Jordan Valley.

Accompanying the minister on his tour on Monday were Dr. Salem Al Lawzi, Under Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, and Director General of Forests Ghaleb Abu Orabi.

New TV series aims to make learning fun

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The premiere showing of the Arabic television literacy series "Al Manaahil" on Sunday offered the audience a sneak-preview of the series which will be shown throughout the Kingdom at the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan.

Invites were shown one episode of the 65 half-hour television programme during a reception held under the patronage of Mrs. Laifa Sharaif, former minister of information. The programmes combine entertainment and education; and are designed primarily as a supplement to school instruction in basic reading and language skills. The series is designed for children ages six to ten, but, it can also help adults who want to become literate.

The sample episode featured a repertoire company of 13 actors and actresses performing different roles in a variety of innovative and lively formats, such as humorous game shows, comedy skits, commercially, and movie director scene.

Sophisticated production techniques to attract and hold the viewers' attention include live action films, animation, and electronic writing, which augment the studio segments. One animated character which caught the audience's attention was the hero, Litterman, who "faster than the wink of the eye," can save the day by replacing letters in words.

The producer of the programmes, Zaid Farid, said that the main theme "is recognition of the letters and building on the letters." The reading goals and teaching approaches were tailored specifically to the structure of the Arabic language and the methods used to teach reading in Arab countries. The characters, setting, music, and style of humour are Arabic, said Mr. Farid.

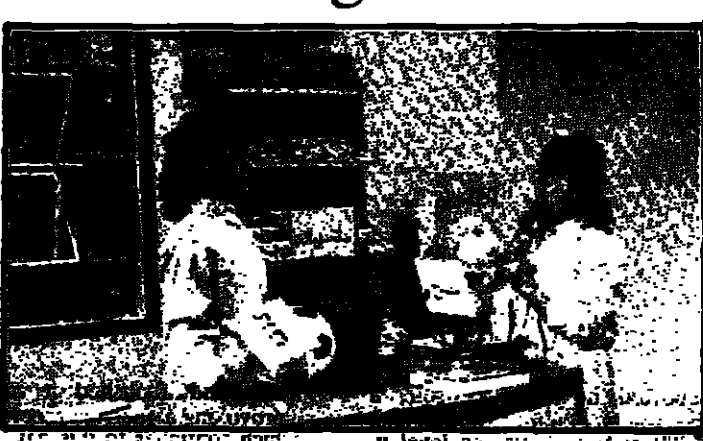
Films on location

To obtain a pan-Arab flavour for the show, 100 live action films have been shot on location throughout the Arab World. Some films focus on historic sites, while others stress the unique aspects of the individual countries.

Such a programme was deemed necessary because "without being armed with education, life can not be faced," said Mr. Farid. He said that knowledge is important in personal life and in national development. Mr. Lewis Reade, director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), said that "USAID views education development as vital to Jordan's development." USAID has provided \$5.9 million for the project in the form of a grant, said Mr. Reade. He estimates the total cost of the programmes, including the research, to be \$6.3 million, with the Jordanian government making up the balance.

Tom Richio, the private sector coordinator from USAID, said the major problem in production was "obtaining the funds from USAID, the government of Jordan and Jordan Television (JTV)." "All sectors thought this would be a profit-making project. However, we found out after a few months that educational television programmes do not usually make profit, or break even," Mr. Richio explained, adding that the main benefit of producing the programme "was that members in the society read and write better." The programme took two years and will not stop after the 65 programmes are broadcast, according to Mr. Richio.

The project was a joint venture between Children's Television Workshops (CTW) and JTV, and was produced by the Jordan Company for TV, Radio and Cinema Production (JCTV). The programme involved the collaborative efforts of producers, sub-



Maysoon, the librarian, is a source of information and reading material for the vast array of customers she serves. Neither the customers, friends nor viewers who enter her shop can escape her infectious personality or "lessons." Scene from Al Manaahil programme.

ject matter specialists to ensure the accuracy and appropriateness of the content, and child research specialists, to represent the needs, interests, and abilities of the target audiences.

Arab advisory board

A multinational Arab advisory board was formed to identify the linguistic needs of Arab children and to formulate a detailed statement of the series goals and objectives, said Mr. Farid. The advisors are from Egypt, Yemen Arab Republic, Tunisia, Morocco, and Jordan. Over the past two years, they held five seminars in New York and Amman to plan and develop the project. The seminars were attended by Al Manaahil's linguistic specialists, producers, researchers, writers and educators.

In the spring 1986, the committee met again to review five pilot programmes containing more than 60 trial skits to determine which approaches should be used in the programmes, Mr. Farid continued. The reactions of audiences from different classes and ages were recorded and analysed by educators, added Mr. Reade.

To help the staff understand how children would respond to the pilot projects, a research team from the University of Jordan presented results of the testing of the pilot programmes among target audiences of Jordanian children. Formal evaluation of the series are being planned after the 65 programmes are screened.

"JTV, which has the rights to Al Manaahil, will be distributing the series to around 15 Arab countries at minimal cost," said Mr. Reade. He added that the money recovered will be used for the production of other educational programmes.

Al Manaahil, in addition to addressing the reading needs of Arab countries, will incorporate Arab cultural and spiritual values, scientific method, dignity of manual labour, appreciating women's role in society, developing good health habits, encouraging team work and cooperation, respecting the views of others and having consideration for the elderly and disabled.

Secretaries' Day party eases office formality

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Were you wondering where your husband was on Sunday night? If your husband is a company manager the likelihood was that he was out with his secretary. But hold your breath, there is a good explanation.

Secretaries in Jordan Sunday celebrated "Secretaries' Day" at a party organised by the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. They had a rare chance to take their employers out for a night on the town. No wives — only bosses and secretaries allowed.

The party, with drinks, food and oriental dancing — was described by most secretaries as "excellent."

However, not all secretaries were so enthusiastic about having their bosses looking over their shoulders as they were trying to have fun out of working hours.

The proximity of the secretaries to their bosses gave a hint of how close their business relationship was. While some "coo-



A melange of secretaries dance the night away on Secretaries' Day, Sunday, at the Intercontinental Hotel.

ples" felt comfortable throughout the party, others avoided their bosses at any cost.

Giggles and laughter mixed with sighs of frustration could be heard throughout the ballroom as secretaries and employers read the slogans on the walls: "Behind every good boss is an even better

secretary." "A good boss is a rarity and the key to his success is his secretary." Other slogans were not so subtle: "Your secretary is only human so stop barking at her."

Dance competition

An oriental dance competition,

the highlight of the party, drew mixed reactions among the guests. Some secretaries joked that the competition would not only be a test of their dancing skills but it could also mean getting a raise or maybe cause problems at work.

Secretaries were clamouring for a chance to win the lottery which offered them a chance to get away from their bosses on a trip to Singapore. It was not made clear whether the ticket would be given to the secretary alone or to her boss also. There were other trips to Larnaca and Cairo.

Although the party was a successful social event, business was not totally forgotten. Businessmen gathered in small groups to discuss their work. All the while, the unsuspecting secretaries were out enjoying the party, unaware of their employers' schemes to burden them with more business letters to write, more appointments to make, and more business lunches to arrange.

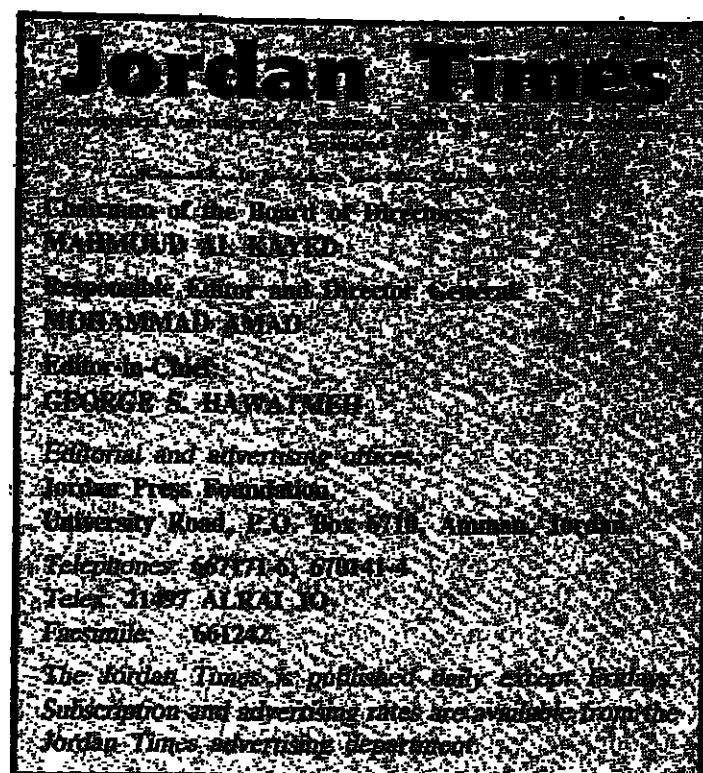
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Step backward

THE Egyptian government's decision yesterday to close down PLO offices in Cairo following the 18th Palestine National Council's "hostile" resolutions towards Egypt should come as no surprise to those observers who have been following events on the Palestinian front over the past few weeks. President Hosni Mubarak and his senior aides had flashed a number of warning lights to the PLO against adopting such a resolution on Egypt by the PNC, and what they did yesterday was no more than a logical and expected follow-up to these warnings. Things could have gone differently, of course, but only if PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat chose to go against the wishes of his more hardline Palestinian colleagues in the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine.

In any way, the fact that Mr. Arafat opted for a tough-language resolution on Palestinian relations with Syria and other Arab countries as well. We do not see this latest development in Palestinian-Egyptian relations as a positive contribution towards rebuilding Arab solidarity and serving the Palestinian cause. But it is equally futile and wrong to start apportioning blame on this or the other party for this newest failure in attempts to close Arab ranks.

Despite what happened yesterday we still have the hope that the step backwards in PLO-Egypt relations does not have the aura of finality and irreversibility to it — just as much as there is no finality and irreversibility in inter-Arab feuds and conflicts and alliances generally. Let tempers cool down first, and let us see how this new failure can be tackled and corrected along with the others before it that have plagued the Arab World.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: EC working actively

THE European Community (EC) did not suffice itself by issuing the Brussels declaration but followed it up with active work as represented in the visits of the Belgian foreign minister to the Middle East and talks with the leaders of Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The EC and the Belgian minister, Mr. Leo Tindemans, are carrying out endeavours for convening the international peace conference which is bound to bring an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The EC ministers who opened meetings in Brussels on Sunday will hear a report by the Belgian minister about the outcome of his trip to the Middle East and his views about problems that should be overcome for arriving at a formula leading to the conference. Mr. Tindemans said during his tour that the proposed conference should aim at implementing United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to ensure a withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories. The participation of the U.N. Security Council members provides a guarantee for the implementation of the resolutions, and the participation of all other parties to the conflict is essential for the peace process. Above all the participation of the PLO in the coming conference is bound to ensure the success of the meeting and provide the best guarantee for the future.

Al Dustour: A turning point

THE Palestine National Council (PNC) concluded its meetings in Algiers after heated debates, and arrived at a formula for ending differences among the various factions and unifying their effort for the struggle against Israel. Although ideological considerations overrode political issues in the process of fusing this unity, the council has nonetheless reaffirmed the PLO's principles and the course of action in relation with other Arab states. The PNC has laid stress to the importance of the unique relations between Jordan and Palestine, and called for the convening of an international conference within an Arab concept to find a solution for the Middle East problem. The PNC also condemned Israel's occupation of Iraqi territory and appreciated Egypt's sacrifice and endeavours for serving the Arab Nation. The council also referred to the importance of maintaining strong relations with Syria and voiced total support for the Lebanese people in the face of Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon. Hence we can say that the PNC meeting in Algiers marked a turning point in the Palestinian action.

Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan's seriousness

JORDAN'S decision to pay extra allowances for teachers and education officials in the occupied West Bank will have a far reaching effect. The decision means first of all that Jordan is committed to providing all necessary means that can bolster the steadfastness of the Arab people under Israeli rule in the face of Israel's repressive measures. Secondly, this decision means that Jordan is serious in its attempts to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinian people in word and deed, and is determined to thwart enemy plans for evicting the indigenous population from their land. Thirdly, this decision reflects the Kingdom's full awareness of the dimensions of the Palestinian problem and Israel's aims and objectives, and its drive to impede all efforts for establishing peace. Jordan realises the great danger of Israel's expansionist designs, and is moving to thwart them and to enable the Arab citizens to resist enemy plans. The decision to help the education staff in the occupied territory is therefore essential to abort Israel's drive against Arab educational institutions and Arab school textbooks and staff who provide knowledge and enlightenment to the young generation, enabling it to resist Israel's occupation of Arab land.

The U.S. and the Gulf: Polishing up a tarnished image

By Fred Axelgard

THOSE who expected the Reagan administration to remain passive in the Middle East for its last two years have had a mild surprise. Word has spread of an international peace conference on the Middle East, and now the Reagan administration has suddenly begun to focus on the Gulf. Stirred by the political outcry over the Iran arms scandal, Washington's diplomatic machinery (such as it is) has been cranked up to give an impression of fresh and effective concern about the Gulf.

There are six discreet steps which can be discerned in the new U.S. initiative toward the Gulf. It has been reported that the approach stems from Middle East policy meetings held within the administration in early February, but in fact lower level staff had already begun to abort possible "next steps" for the administration towards resuscitating the U.S. position in the area. Eventually this evolved into a broad, multi-faceted effort which combines military and diplomatic moves, and involves the administration in some sensitive domestic, bilateral, and multilateral politicking.

But behind it all, nagging questions linger. Will it work? Is it even supposed to work? In the sense of effecting a concrete change in the Gulf situation? The motive of diplomatic damage-control is transparently obvious. Also, judging from past experiences with this administration's regional initiatives — going back to President Reagan's Middle East peace proposal of September 1982 — one is compelled to ask: Is the initiative a serious commitment, backed by an effective strategy with clear

objectives and plans for implementation? Or is it purely a cosmetic gesture by an administration that knows neither what it wants to accomplish in the Gulf nor how it might achieve it?

1. President Reagan's 25 February statement on the Iran-Iraq war was the first public point of departure on this initiative. Mr. Reagan denounced Iran for its intransigence in the Gulf war, for "its efforts to subvert its neighbours through terrorism and intimidation." Iraq had pressed vigorously for a high level statement of this kind ever since the Iran arms scandal broke and welcomed it warmly. For Mr. Reagan, it amounted to a reversal of his earlier avowals that Iran had ceased acts of terrorism, a stand which was very much at the heart of his justification for the idea of arms sales to Iran. This reversal was not picked up by the White House press corps, who failed to use it when Mr. Reagan again defended his original justification of the arms sale at his 19 March press conference.

2. Despatching U.S. naval forces to the Gulf has attracted more attention. U.S. ships sped toward the northern Gulf during Iran's worrying advances in January, supposedly to reassure Kuwait which was then hosting an Islamic summit. In March, in response to signals from Kuwait and Iran's placement of "Silk worm" missiles near the Strait of Hormuz, the U.S. made a very public offer to Kuwait to provide naval escorts for its tankers in the Gulf. Kuwait has reportedly declined this offer, apparently after failing to arrive at arrangements which would meet the sensitivities of both superpowers. Kuwait has now agreed to gain protection

for its ships by transferring registration of some of its tankers to the USSR. Nevertheless, the Pentagon has decided to build up naval presence in the area by stationing an aircraft carrier battle group permanently near the Gulf.

3. Weapons for Arab allies is Washington's third tactic for bolstering its credibility in the Gulf. Given Congress's relentless opposition to Arab arms sales in the very recent past, it is difficult to imagine that the White House would seriously rely on this manoeuvre to improve its relations in the Arab world. Nevertheless, proposals to sell arms to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and other countries have gone forward, seemingly with intent. This may reflect how desperate are the administration's straits with its Arab allies, and perhaps a calculation that the Pollard spy case and the Iran arms scandal have eased the uninhibited pro-Israel political climate on Capitol Hill.

To date, Congress has not indulged in its usual strong, outspoken opposition to these proposals. Nevertheless, administration officials have been challenged in low-key but pointed ways on Capitol Hill. The inherent controversy has been accentuated by the fact that Mr. Reagan is proposing to sell the Arabs anti-armour munitions made from depleted uranium, against which Israeli tanks have no effective defence. It is expected that an outright political row will eventually doom these arms sales or that they will be so emasculated by compromise that they will do little to restore Arab confidence toward Washington.

(The last three elements of the Reagan administration's new

Gulf initiative deal with the Iran-Iraq war and bilateral relations with Iraq.)

4. Operation staunch. The U.S. campaign to block Western arms sales to Iran was the most effective tool America had brought to bear on the Gulf war — and almost certainly the most serious concrete casualty of the Iran arms scandal. A concerted diplomatic effort has been under way since the beginning of this year to "put starch back into staunch." Thus far, the only available assessments suggest that U.S. diplomats' entreaties and urgings have been met with appreciative but knowing smiles from Western allies who will not quickly be corralled into an outright arms embargo against Iran.

5. A new U.N. Security Council resolution on the Gulf war has reportedly been an important priority for Iraq. The U.S. has been constructively and energetically engaged in prompting consultations among Security Council members and interested parties, dating back to the days of Iran's January offensive. Iraqi officials seem to entertain hopes of effective action emanating from this forum. Iraq and the U.S. have developed a relatively strong record of good diplomatic cooperation at the U.N., dating back to the resolution condemning the Israeli raid on Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981. Nevertheless, if Iraq seriously expects its longstanding wish for a Security Council resolution calling for an end to the war, and which incorporates sanctions for non-compliance, it is likely to be disappointed.

6. American concern about its relations with Iraq has surfaced in

rumours that Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead, might make a late April visit to Baghdad. This has been discussed internally, although it has not been proposed to the Iraqis. The publication of the proposal in the Wall Street Journal may delay and perhaps eliminate the visit altogether. If Whitehead goes, it would be the highest ranking official visit to Iraq in nearly three decades. The proposal caused heartburn in some circles of the administration, where it was suggested that the visit would manifest a blatant U.S. "tilt" toward Iraq. Other observers expressed reservations that it would give the appearance of American policy lurching from one extreme to the other and thereby confirm to our friends in the region that "we really don't know what we're doing."

On a related matter, the administration has reportedly been asked by Iraq to provide C-130 transport aircraft and to grant permission for Baghdad to rent or use artillery radar which the U.S. has sold to Jordan. Press reports indicate that the administration has refused to allow "these arrangements, and State Department sources confirm that there is no serious discussion about changing U.S. policy in this regard. Direct U.S. assistance to Iraq, in terms of the war effort, is therefore limited to provision of selective intelligence from spy satellites, outfitting Iranian military positions. Such data was being provided to Iraq before the Iran arms scandal broke. In the mood of bitter disappointment which followed, officials in Baghdad specifically charged that Iraq's loss of the Fao peninsula (and of thousands of Iraqi sol-

diers) in early 1985 was result of bad intelligence provided by the U.S. Although American officials in Washington and Baghdad have vigorously denied these accusations, it is difficult to see how U.S.-Iraqi relations could improve on the strength of the intelligence link alone.

As one examines the U.S.'s new Gulf initiative, as a whole or in its component parts, its outlook is not encouraging. It proceeds from a statement by Mr. Reagan which contains important contradictory elements that have not been resolved. It has been tainted by a streak of gung-ho militarism which led the administration to ignore Kuwait sensitivities and publicise bilateral discussions about tanker escorts. Moreover, the effect of the initiative on America's Arab allies will likely be held hostage to the arms sale proposals now pending precariously before Congress. The attempt to resuscitate "operation staunch" remains a very difficult prospect; and Iran's continuing military thrusts against Iraq suggest that a restriction of Western arms flows to Iran would do little to deter Tehran's war effort any way. Finally, there are no real prospects that initiatives at the U.N. or bilaterally between Baghdad and Washington will have a lasting impact on the war or the weakened U.S. diplomatic position in the Gulf.

One can only hope that behind the scenes, the Reagan administration has made more creative proposals and is pursuing them with more commitment than those which have been made public. Otherwise, passivity may have been preferable — Middle East, International, London.

Arias peace plan brings hope to Central America

There have been several efforts, notably the Contadora Group's initiative, started in 1983, to bring peace to the troubled regions of Central America. Robert Graham reports that new diplomatic moves emanating from Costa Rica are now winning real credibility.

LONDON — From an unpromising start the Central American peace plan put forward in February by President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica has begun to gain credibility.

Nicaragua has dropped its initial hostility and, after a series of postponements, the leaders of the five Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) will meet at the end of June in the Guatemalan city of Escuintla to discuss the proposals. Meanwhile the U.S. Senate, in a surprise show of near-unanimity, has voted 97-1 in favour of the Reagan Administration endorsing the Arias Plan.

"Right now the Arias Plan is the only diplomatic game in town," commented one of the region's senior diplomats. The Costa Rican President's proposals completely overshadowed the diplomatic efforts of the four-nation Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela) which since January 1983 has been trying to hammer out a peace plan for Central America.

President Arias is fully aware that he cannot afford to alienate the Contadora Group, which is backed by the major nations of Latin America. "I hope people have realised that the plan is not against any particular country: the only aim is to obtain peace for Central America," he says.

Recently the Contadora Group, meeting in Buenos Aires, gave the plan qualified approval, anxious not to sabotage it but keen not to be excluded from the peace process should it succeed. The plan envisages the following:

• General amnesty within 60 days of all five states signing the document, in those countries where armed conflict exists, and creation of national commissions for reconciliation.

• Dialogue established with all internal opposition groups where armed conflict exists.

• Ceasefire declared simultaneously with the dialogue.

• Democratisation introduced within six months, free of external influence, with special emphasis on liberty in the media within 60 days.

• Elections to a new Central American parliament in 1988, preceded by free domestic elections.

• Suspension of overt/covert foreign military aid to insurgent forces and the prevention of territory being used to destabilise another state.

• Reduction in armaments and force levels to be negotiated within 60 days of signature of the document.

• Follow-up and verification to be carried out by the United Nations and the Organisation of

American States secretary-generals in conjunction with the Contadora Group.

While this incorporates some Contadora ideas, the group has been reduced to the role of a joint verifier of a future agreement. "I felt there was space for a country with the moral authority of Costa Rica to act," says President Arias. "I have put big emphasis in the plan on the political aspect — on democratisation — because I believe there can be no peace without democracy." The Contadora group peace proposals, on the other hand, put most emphasis on guaranteeing the internal security of the Central American countries.

The key to the Arias plan is the concept of symmetry. The obligations are not exclusive to Nicaragua. While the Sandinista government would be obliged to amnesty its opponents and permit greater pluralism, the governments of El Salvador and Guatemala would be obliged to do the same.

Symmetry further means Cuban and Soviet aid to Nicaragua would be reduced by the same measure that the U.S. cut back its military support for its allies, and that external support for guerrilla movements would be dropped — whether the U.S.-backed anti-Sandinista rebels, the Contras, or the Cuban-backed FDR/FMLN in El Salvador.

The plan was formalised at a meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, on February 15 attended by the Central American presidents with the exception of Nicaragua. Nicaragua's exclusion led to loud protests from Managua.

Yet Nicaragua's initial exclusion was instrumental in persuading El Salvador and Honduras to go along with the plan despite serious misgivings. Although piqued by their exclusion, the Nicaraguan government is taking President Arias' initiative seriously. This is largely because President Arias has been able to demonstrate his distance from President Reagan's Central American policy. Even before taking office last June the 45 year old graduate of the London School of Economics had voiced his scepticism about the policy of backing the Contras.

Since then he has made it plain he will not tolerate Costa Rica being used as a base for a Contra southern front. (This refusal has borne out the evidence in the recent Tower Commission report.) Without formal U.S. backing the Arias Plan stands little chance of success. But the Reagan administration is unlikely to make any concrete move until it sees how Congress stands on a request for fresh Contra funds to be debated in September — Financial Times feature.

NATO grapples with new twist to Euromissiles

By Richard Balmforth
Routier

BRUSSELS — The latest twist in the "Euromissile" saga appears to have left NATO undecided whether it has scored a victory or registered a defeat.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz returned from Moscow last week to tell allies the Soviet Union was ready to abolish its shorter-range nuclear missiles to help towards a deal to rid Europe of medium-range systems.

On the face of it, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation appeared to have come close to winning the long-running poker game with the Soviets over the "Euromissile" question.

Since the Reykjavik superpower summit last October, the Europeans had insisted that any U.S.-Soviet agreement on medium-range (INF) missiles would have to take account of Moscow's big numerical advantage in shorter range systems such as the SS-20 and SS-25.

The New Soviet proposal appeared to be a major concession, ironing out the last hitch to a medium-range (INF) agreement that would enable West European governments to rid themselves of the "Euromissile" curse that has dogged them throughout the 1980s.

But nothing is ever quite that simple in NATO, an alliance that joins 16 nations sharing common ideals but often holding divergent views on East-West security issues for reasons of history, geography or simple political expediency.

There was no euphoria. Western foreign ministers returned to

their national capitals in moods varying from optimism to deep uncertainty over just where the new Soviet proposal left them.

For most Europeans, it was yet another uncomfortable twist in an issue that has had them on the hook since 1979 when the Western alliance decided to deploy U.S. Cruise and Pershing 2 missiles to force the Soviets to withdraw their SS-20s.

Buying time, the Western alliance last week opted cautiously to "consider" the security implications of the new Soviet offer. The nations are now working out a joint response.

All the same, the feeling at NATO headquarters these days is that the process set in train by the summit in Reykjavik is unstoppable and that the alliance has reached something approaching a cross-roads.

"These are momentous times. For all we know we might be heading — o the 1950s to the pre-balistic missile era when all we had were aircraft carrying nuclear bombs," said one alliance diplomat.

There are military and doctrinal reasons, rather than political ones, why Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's shorter-range missile offer poses a dilemma for NATO.

Having stressed for so long the vital necessity of removing the imbalance of Soviet shorter-range missiles — those with a range of between 500-1,000 kilometres — NATO may find it a difficult offer to refuse.

In that class of weapon, NATO says it has only 72 West German Pershing 1-A missiles to set against the vastly more numerous

Soviet systems whose warheads, Shultz said last week, "were up in the multi-hundreds."

Until now, NATO has backed the U.S. position reserving the right to match existing Soviet levels of these weapons, while conceding privately that deployment of new shorter-range systems would be, politically, difficult to push through.

But for the NATO strategists and military the problem is more fundamental. Removing another category of weapons, they argue, would pick away further at the alliance's doctrine of "flexible response."

This strategy envisages an ascending ladder of responses to Warsaw Pact nuclear artillery up to the doomsday exchange of inter-continental missiles between the superpowers.

At heart, most NATO military believe this strategy requires maintaining some nuclear missiles of all categories, including the U.S. medium-range cruise and Pershing 2s which will be scrapped under the INF "zero option" agreed in principle by the superpowers.

A straightforward "yes" from NATO to Gorbachev's offer would, as Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said, remove two rungs from the ladder at a stroke.

Some NATO countries are more anxious than others. West German Defence Minister Manfred Woerner, whose country would be in the front-line of a missile exchange, spoke out strongly last Sunday against breaking out of NATO's ability to "react rung by rung."

However, many of the Europeans appear to accept that, with the Reagan administration seemingly bent on getting an arms agreement before leaving office, they will have to compromise somewhere along the line.

Many NATO diplomats are now looking to the step beyond — the conventional arms field — where further soul-searching lies. Many NATO diplomats expect the "denuclearisation" question to become increasingly linked to the problem of the "missile mismatch" between the Warsaw Pact's conventional forces and those of NATO.

An added cause of unease among the allies is the way in which Gorbachev is repeatedly throwing NATO off balance with new arms control proposals.

"We are definitely on the defensive. There may be good reasons for that. But all the same we are on the defensive and we would like to find a way to stop that," said one diplomat.

Most NATO diplomats make no secret of their nostalgia for the sedate, controlled pace of arms control, as it once was, rather than the dizzy speed of events which has set in since the Reykjavik summit.

"NATO prefers moves step by step, digesting and assimilating proposals and pausing for thought along the way," said one diplomat.

"It does not like headlong rushes into the unknown and it particularly does not like being stampeded into decisions by Mr. Gorbachev," the diplomat said.

Egypt closes PLO offices in retaliatory move

(Continued from page 1)

1984 and was accused later by Arafat loyalists of trying to oust him. There also have been charges by Mr. Arafat and his followers that Syria supported Lebanese militias that besieged Palestinian camps and killed hundreds of refugees in shootouts with PLO fighters defending the camps. Mr. Abdul Meguid's statement denounced the PLO leadership as inadequate.

"It is strange that the PNC should allow itself to disown Egypt's struggle to this extent — as struggle in which Egypt undertook a role that the PLO leadership failed to carry out or just gave up, as if it were an Egyptian responsibility before being a Palestinian responsibility," the statement said.

Mr. Abdul Meguid said that despite Monday's rupture with the PLO, Cairo continues its support of the Palestinian people in seeking a Middle East settlement. This backing, he said, is "an unshakable principled commitment stemming from Egypt's belief in the justice of the Palestinian cause."

Following is an unofficial partial text of the statement Monday by the Egyptian government, announcing closure of PLO offices:

"... There were hopeful signs of reaching an agreement by all

those involved in the convening of the international (Middle East peace) conference for an active and effective Palestinian participation.

"At this time in particular, the Palestine National Council (PNC) issued a decision in a hostile manner about relations between the PLO and Egypt denying Egypt's sacrifices to support the Palestinian people in all stages of its struggle."

"The only justification for this irresponsible decision... was to achieve the price demanded to please some countries... at a time when (the PNC) turned blind eyes and deaf ears to the forces that tried to degrade the Palestinian people..."

"Egypt cannot remain silent about these irresponsible slanders practised by elements as far away from abiding to any national or pan-Arab cause..."

"Egypt warned PLO leaders before and during the PNC meeting of the consequences of denying Egypt its sacrifices or its position towards the Palestinian people..."

"Accordingly, Egypt had decided the following: The closure of all PLO offices and institutions

in Egypt and all measures connected to this act.

"Regardless of this statement, this does not mean any change in Egypt's support for the Palestinian struggle, which is the unshakable principle emerging from Egypt's faith in the justice of the (Palestinian) cause..."

"They have had leadership imposed on them who do not know the meaning of commitment to the cause, and all that concerns them is pursuing gains through conspiracies and manoeuvres."

"This firm stance which Egypt is taking will actively protect the right of the brave Palestinian people to free themselves, their lands and wills from the occupying forces."

A leading Cairo newspaper on Monday carried a pledge by Mr.

Arafat that he would continue his efforts to maintain close relations with Egypt.

The semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram said Mr. Arafat made the pledge in his first comment on PNC resolutions issued early Sunday in Algiers.

In his comment, published in Al-Ahram's Monday early edition, Mr. Arafat said "we will embark on promoting the Egyptian-Palestinian relations for the sake of joint Arab interests."

"I once more reaffirm that there will be no tampering with our strategic relations with Egypt," Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying.

"Egypt is a sincere supporter of the Palestinians and we will never permit anything to affect our relations with her," Mr. Arafat pledged.

Kuwait talks were successful

(Continued from page 1)

Ministry of Finance official Sa'id Al-Hamami.

A joint communique issued at the end of the meeting said that the committee would "follow up" the investment projects in Jordan and coordinate contacts among representatives of various sectors in the two countries."

"The list of ventures proposed by the Jordanian side received appreciation of the Kuwaiti investors in view of Jordan's geographical size, stability, economic relations with various states particularly Arab countries, and the guarantees it offers to foreign investors," the statement said.

"We found a good response from Kuwait (proposals for) investment in Jordan, for taking part in projects which would benefit both sides," Dr. Moasher was quoted as saying in a Reuters dispatch from Kuwait.

Beekeeping priest hopes to cure world's ills with honey

By Irena Czekierska
Reuters

KAMIENNA, Poland — A mountainside village in southern Poland, fringed by forests where bears still roam and eagles nest in summer, could soon become the world's first apitherapy centre, using natural remedies based on bees.

It's just one of the schemes of Father Henryk Ostach, who came to Kamienna more than 20 years ago and transformed the near-deserted hamlet into a thriving community modelled on the bee-hives which are his passion.

"There is so much we can learn from the way bees organise their lives," Ostach said. "They're a model family — diligent, efficient, they love order, have great respect for their queen and are prepared to defend her even until death."

On a grassy slope behind a picturesque wooden church, Ostach has collected hives from all over Poland, many of them old, intricately carved and brightly painted in folkloric forms of animals, cottages, windmills and peasant figures.

They are still working, and several thousand visitors come here each year to buy the local honey, which is delicately flavoured with lime tree blossoms, and said to be the best produced in Poland.

"Bees are much loved in Poland and the tradition goes back a long way," Ostach told Reuters in a recent interview. Sitting in his parish study, surrounded by natural history books in several languages, he said beekeepers here even have a patron saint — Ambrosius.

In the ancient chronicles of the amber merchants who plied the routes from the Baltic shores to Rome, Poland was described as "a land flowing with honey," full of fresh air and beautiful forests," he said.

Now, while vast tracts of the country are poisoned by industrial pollution, Kamienna is one of the last unspoiled areas with forests unharmed by acid rain and mountain springs still crystal clear.

The healing properties of honey and other substances produced by bees, together with the clear local air, could be the answer to all sorts of illnesses including respiratory complaints, eye problems and skin diseases, Ostach believes.

"Bees are the great hope of sick people," he said, producing a tome of evidence compiled by the recent fifth world symposium on apitherapy, and adding that people were increasingly turning to natural remedies instead of modern chemical drugs.

In apitherapy, bee products including honey, wax and a sterile substance called propolis, which bees make to protect their hive,

are used as ointment or processed in pill or liquid form.

Propolis, as an ointment, is already catching on as a popular remedy which some Poles swear speeds up the healing process of skin wounds. Ostach said it was used with considerable success in treating burns victims of the chemical plant disaster at Bhopal in India two years ago.

He is hoping to set up the world's first apitherapy sanatorium with facilities to treat up to 10,000 patients from across the globe. The priest said he was setting up an international foundation to fund the project, and building work starts next year with a scheduled completion date of 1995.

And if that sounds fanciful, it should be remembered that when the priest, now a sprightly 62, first arrived in Kamienna, only a handful of dilapidated houses stood there and, he said, he slept on the ground with only a raincoat for a blanket.

Now there is a road which he helped build, the houses have running water and electricity, gas is on the way, and a retirement home for priests is almost finished.

Since he took up his hobby 35 years ago when he found his pastoral duties in his first parish included tending a flock of bees, the priest has become such an authority on the subject that he now heads the Polish Beekeepers' Association.

One of his most interesting observations was reported in the Polish press earlier this year. While the rest of the country knew nothing of what had happened for several days after the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl last spring, Ostach's bees headed straight back to their hives and stayed there for eight days.

"We couldn't understand why. It was a beautiful, sunny day and there were lots of fresh blossoms out," Ostach said.

Many of Poland's 200,000 beekeepers reported similar stories and it was only later that they realised the bees had sensed radioactivity passing over the country from the neighbouring Soviet Union.

"Bees are a natural Geiger counter," the priest concluded.

As head of the Beekeepers' Association, Ostach is now preparing for an international apitherapy congress in Warsaw in July, to be attended by 5,000 enthusiasts from more than 70 nations, including Israel and South Africa, with which Poland has either limited or no diplomatic ties.

"He's indefatigable," said Father Michal Grabowski, who has been drafted in to help perform religious duties in Kamienna's 156-strong community as Ostach's activities send him across Poland and abroad, "but he always manages prayers twice a day."

'Kids bank': A new financial learning tool

By Thomas Witom
Reuters

CHICAGO — Plans for a new kind of financial institution, a bank for children, are drawing interest even though they are still largely on the drawing board.

The Colorado Banking Commission recently approved a charter for the Young American Bank in Denver.

Veteran banker Roger Knight, who will serve as its president, said the goal is to have the new bank in operation by the time school starts next autumn.

"It's a unique concept, offering young people a range of financial services such as checking and savings accounts, credit cards, business loans and certificates of deposit," Knight told Reuters in a telephone interview from Denver.

In addition, the bank, which was initially called "The Kids Bank," will provide a variety of educational programmes and seminars for its clientele, who will range in age from 10 to 22.

"Unlike traditional financial institutions, the Young American Bank is directly addressing its youthful audience," said marketing consultant Art Lucey of Alexander Lucey Inc.

He said the bank will be scaled down in size, making pint-size clientele feel comfortable at the walk-up window. Two sets of loan forms will be available, one geared to the comprehension level of a 10-year-old and the other to those age 16 and above.

Lucey said the limit on amounts young patrons might borrow or write cheques against will rise as they "prove" themselves. Cheque limits, for instance, might start at \$10 and then rise to \$100.

The proposed venture is the brainchild of Bill Daniels, a 66-year-old Denver Cable Television entrepreneur who has put \$1.5 million of his own money into the project. He is also a shareholder and director of a Los Angeles-based savings and loan company.

Daniels said no dividends would be paid, and profits would be funneled back to support the bank.

"It will not be transformed into a regular 'adult' bank, but will put profitability and education on an equal footing," he told Reuters by telephone from Denver.

"My purpose is to give young people the opportunity to get financial experience and education which will assist them for the rest of their lives," he added.

The Colorado Council on Economic Education will play an active role in the kids bank, and the American Bankers Association and Colorado Bankers Association have expressed their support as well, said Knight, who expects similar institutions to sprout up in other states.

Under-age patrons who want to borrow from the bank will need their parents or guardians to co-sign the notes. To make cheque cashing easier, the bank will issue photo identification cards.

Last August, a sceptical Colorado Banking Commission turned thumbs down when the idea was first proposed, questioning the bank's ability to stay in business.

But Daniels convinced commission members that the enterprise would be viable and won a reversal.

To support the young people's bank, he has been lining up corporations and foundations who were asked to make deposits at low or no interest.

Funding row puts EEC research at risk

Britain seems to be losing out on a project to help European companies catch up with the U.S. in the technology race. William Dawkins reports on the U.K.'s delay in joining an important project.

BRUSSELS — Driving in to Brussels on the motorway from Ostend, you will notice near the centre of town an office block bearing on its roof a conspicuous illuminated sign.

It is just before the turning for the European Commission and the sign picks out in blue lights; "ITT Research. There's no future without it." It is a message with an especially ironic meaning at a time when Britain stands isolated as the only EEC member state to refuse to back a controversial Ecu6.48 billion (\$7.3 billion) joint Community programme for research over the next five years.

The project, designed among other things to help European companies catch up in the technology race with U.S. counterparts such as ITT, has been much slimmered down from the Commission's Ecu7.735 billion proposal, itself a reduction from the original Ecu10.3 billion plan.

The Ecu6.48 billion version of the scheme is a final compromise put together by Belgium as chairman of the Council of Ministers. Mr. Guy Verhofstadt, the Belgian minister behind the proposal, gave London only a few days to make up its mind. But the U.K. has said it needs more time to consider a scheme which it has argued all along is mostly poorly focused and duplicates national research efforts in many areas.

All this has exposed Britain to a chorus of complaints from the Commission, the European parliament, industry lobbies and other member states that its stubbornness is forcing the Community's research industry into a crisis and jeopardising the future of the EEC's high technology.

The so-called framework programme covers a wide range of subjects from information technology through to energy and is supposed to take over from the present Ecu3.5 billion programme, set to run out at the end of this year. Within the present scheme, however, several projects have already run to the end

of their first phase or have nearly used up their initial funding and are near the stage where they cannot go on without an agreement on the framework programmes.

They include the Esprit study into information technology and the Race work on advanced telecommunications — ironically, two of the projects for which the U.K. has the most support, along with Brite in industrial technology. Also at risk are two much smaller programmes for research into cancer and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), and science and technology for developing nations.

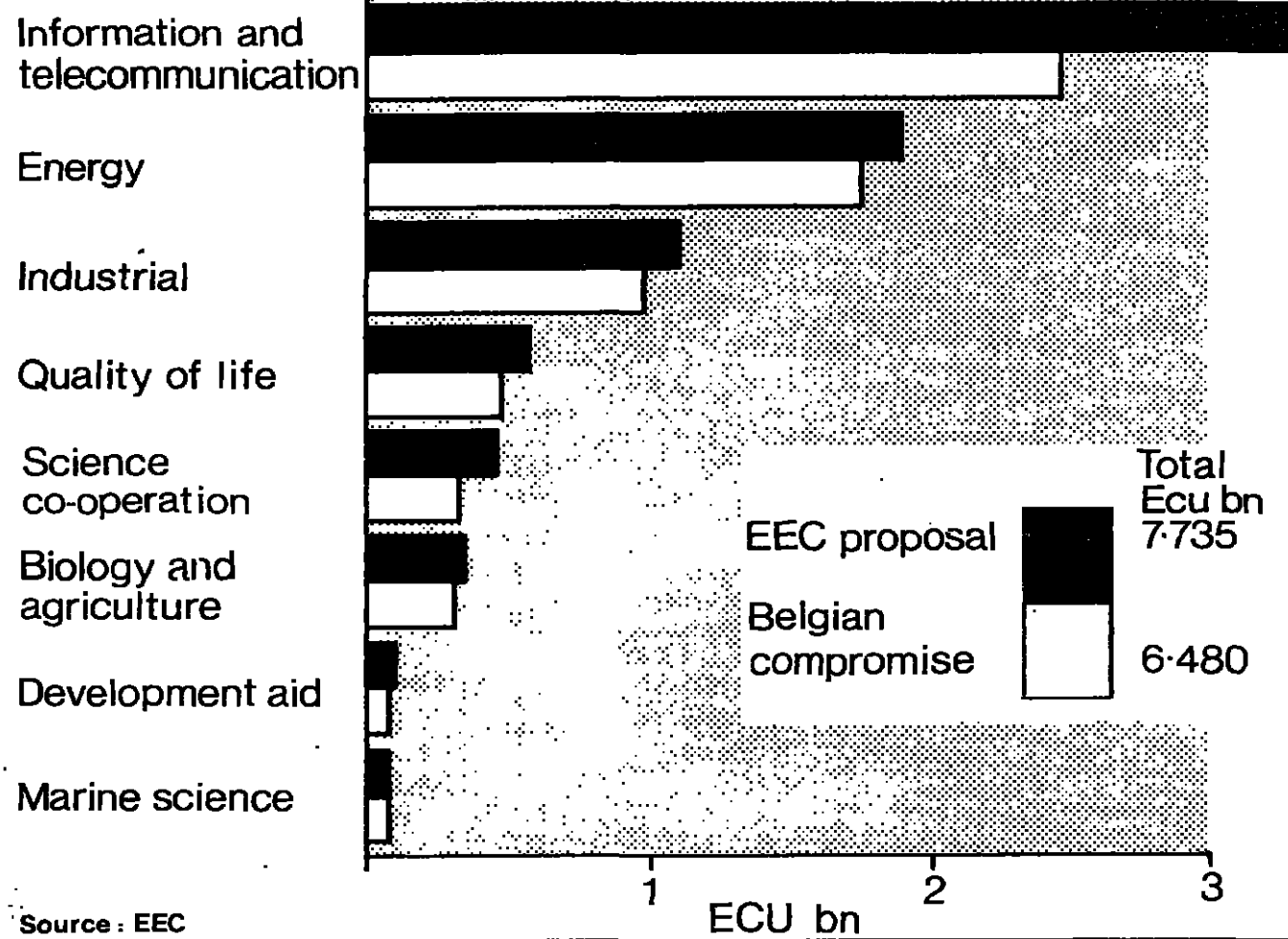
Esprit probably has most to lose. Its 3,000 scientists in companies and university laboratories across the Community make it the largest project in the programmes and it has been hailed by its participants as making a valuable contribution to encouraging EEC companies to think internationally. Esprit has almost run through its initial Ecu750 million and now is being offered another Ecu1.6 billion under the Belgian compromise, well below the Ecu2 billion proposed by the Commission.

Among the Esprit projects due to run out of cash this year are studies into advanced computer networks for business information involving General Electric Company (GEC) of Britain and Fiat of Italy, and research into merging PABX telephone exchanges into computer networks involving Plessey, the French telecommunications group Jeumont Schneider and the West German group Telenorma.

Even assuming the research budget is agreed soon, the money will take months to work through the EEC machinery to the projects themselves and may render several projects irrelevant.

The average lifespan of a new information technology component is little more than two years,

EEC research and technology proposals 1987-91



Source: EEC

holding out the ridiculous prospect of a new EEC-backed product emerging on the market just as demand starts to shift towards the next generation of components. One possible example is application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), a new kind of customised chip planned for examination in Esprit's second phase where, says one technology official: "We are not yet too late."

But the problem of getting started in the race at the right time is getting more difficult. The same risk of getting out of step with the market hangs over the Race study into broad-band communications, which would combine voice, data, video and graphics on to a single line. This involves 500 scientists from 30 EEC countries who finished preliminary work on defining

common standards at the end of last year and are now awaiting Ecu550 million under the Belgian offer to continue.

"One is not talking about broad-band communications being of importance until the mid-1990s," admits Mr. Mel Price, vice chairman of GEC Telecoms. "But you cannot lose the first year of a big research programme like this without feel-

ing the effects later on. If you delay a year, someone else will pre-empt you — and the window for this particular opportunity is not infinitely wide."

Mr. Price has not yet started to disband his own research teams, which were expecting a delay in any event, but he gives a warning: "You cannot keep them together for too long once they lose hope" — Financial Times feature.

Rhesus monkeys — boon to humanity — vex, rob and amuse Indian villagers

By Donald J. Frederick
National Geographic

TIGHRI, India — people and rhesus monkeys usually get along fine in India, but, occasionally, things get out of hand.

"My mother-in-law was bitten by two monkeys and died from the bites," says Kamala Ramaker, who lives in this village just outside Delhi. "It's outrageous. They later came back and stole the laundry from my clothesline."

Ramaker's 15-year-old neighbour, Reena Bhattacharya, views the animals differently. "The monkeys are part of the neighbourhood, and have done me no harm," she says. "I find them quite amusing and feel very lonely when they're not around."

Roam around everywhere

Such differences of opinion are common in India, where rhesus monkeys freely roam both countryside and town.

Even though the monkeys sometimes pilfer papers from offices, raid refrigerators, and ruin farm crops, few Indians would consider harming them.

Concern for rhesus monkeys seems just and wise, for the human race owes the rhesus a profound debt of gratitude, most

scientists would agree.

"For all its contributions to medicine, the animal deserves the Nobel Prize," says Charles Southwick, a University of Colorado biologist who has spent years in India studying the monkeys.

As research animals, rhesus monkeys have prevented thousands of human tragedies, including birth defects, polio, and premature heart disease.

Tests involving the rhesus led to development of a reliable and safe polio vaccine in 1953. The thalidomide catastrophe that struck children in Europe in 1961 was averted in the United States when rhesus research showed that the tranquilliser caused birth defects.

In hematology, the primates saved lives by showing the way to treat Rh problems in newborn babies. The protein known as the Rh factor in some red blood cells gets its designation from the rhesus.

Renowned for a lot more than their contributions to science, monkeys have long played an important role in the culture and religion of India and much of Asia. In ancient Hindu texts, Hanuman, the monkey god, and his hosts are associated with the triumph of good over evil. So



Rhesus monkeys freely roam both city and countryside in many Asian countries (Photo by Thomas L. Ritchie — National Geographic)

people often give bananas to monkeys as a goodwill gesture.

Handing out bananas

A field near Delhi comes alive with monkeys when Mehech Kumer, who works in a nearby

cassette factory, hops out of his truck to distribute about 300 bananas. "My boss sent me," he explains. "Business is good, and he has a lot of faith in the monkeys."

Despite this relatively benign

atmosphere, rhesus monkeys declined from 2 million in 1960 to about 180,000 in 1982, an alarming drop for an animal so hardy and adaptable. Alarmed by the steady decline and some methods of medical research, India, which had been exporting more than 100,000 rhesus monkeys annually, stopped the trade in 1978. The population has slowly increased to an estimated 270,000 today.

But trade wasn't the only problem, says Southwick. As he crisscrossed India, he found a rapidly expanding population rushing headlong into an age of high technology.

"While still an agrarian country, India is very much in the computer, nuclear, and space ages," says Southwick. "Millions of acres of forests have been converted into corporate farms, cities have grown, modern dams and vast irrigation projects have been built. There's less and less room for the rhesus."

Lack of a firm government policy is also part of the problem, according to rhesus expert Iqbal Malik, an assistant professor of zoology at Delhi University. "The monkeys we have should be looked after and managed properly so they don't get out of hand and turn people against them," she says.

Jaipur, capital of India's Rajasthan state, is a case in point. In the early-morning hours, monkeys swarm over rooftops and storefronts in the old section of the city, much to the annoyance of shopkeepers.

Accused of larceny

"They're thieves," says Surah Prakash, who runs a small food stand. "They steal my vegetable patties."

An estimated 3,500 monkeys live in the old section of the city, says Rajasthan University zoology professor Reena Mathur, who has been studying the monkeys. "Because of their increasing numbers, they're losing their sacred image. More and more people now regard them as pests."

Besides the day-to-day monkey business, there's also a health hazard. "Monkey bites send people to the hospital every week," says Ajay Lobo, a research scholar who is helping with the study. Monkeys have set up their own visiting hours at a hospital in downtown Delhi. "I saw this big monkey in a corridor," a startled visitor recalls. "An orderly shouted to a couple of alarmed patients, 'Carry on, just walk around him. He's here all the time.'"

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Evert upsets Navratilova in their 71st tennis match

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — Chris Evert defeated top-ranked Martina Navratilova 3-6, 6-1, 7-6, (7-4), in their 71st career meeting to win the \$150,000 Houston Women's Tennis Tournament.

"I'm thrilled that I won," said the fourth-ranked Evert, who last beat Navratilova in the 1986 French Open. The win marked only the fifth time Evert has defeated Navratilova since 1982.

Navratilova said she was not overly concerned about not having won a tournament since last November.

"My confidence is not where I'd like it to be," she said. "I need to brainwash myself by winning a tournament, but I won't get worried unless I keep losing."

Navratilova, who beat Evert for the first time in the Houston final of 1976, holds a 37-34 edge in their rivalry, which dates back to 1973. She won their last meeting in August 1986 at the Los Angeles Tournament.

Top seeded Navratilova broke

Evert in the first game of the match on a double-fault to take a 2-0 lead. Evert, seeded third, saved a break point in the fifth game, but Navratilova broke Evert with a forehand passing shot in the seventh game for 5-2.

The 32-year-old Evert broke Navratilova in the next game with a backhand lob for 3-5, but lost her serve and the set in the ninth game on three passing shots by Navratilova.

Evert dropped her serve only once and broke the 30-year-old Navratilova four times to win the second set. Navratilova struggled with her backhand, committing six unforced errors.

Navratilova achieved the first service break in the ninth game of the third set and served for the match at 5-4. Evert broke back in

the 10th game with a drop volley winner, and each player held their serves to force a tiebreak.

Evert broke through at 3-3 in the tiebreak with a forehand lob that sailed out of Navratilova's reach and went up 5-3 on another backhand error by Navratilova.

Navratilova saved one match point with a topspin backhand passing shot, but Evert closed out the tiebreak 7-4 with a drop shot winner that caught Navratilova moving the wrong way.

"It's pretty disappointing losing a match that you are two points away from winning," said Navratilova, who collected \$13,800 as runner-up.

Evert, who won \$30,500, said the number of their meetings has not suited the quality of the match.

"We know each other's games so well," she said. "But it's still unbelievable the matches we've had on clay... they're real emotional matches. It's always high quality tennis."

Dahiyat reviews progress of sports complex in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — Minister of Youth 'Eid Dahiyat Sunday visited Zarqa Governorate and met with Zarqa Governor Eid Qataneh to discuss issues related to the sports city project in the governorate and means of supporting the local sport and youth movement.

The minister also met with Zarqa Development Corporation (ZDC) Chairman of the Board Tayseer Ammari who briefed him on the governorate's needs of playgrounds. Dr. Ammari stressed the importance of speeding up the establishment of the sports city on an 800 dunum area of land in Jarba area which has been allocated for the project.

Dr. Dahiyat stressed the necessity of activating sports and youth activities and preparing de-

signs for setting up sports complexes and installations at the cost of JD 1.5 million in Zarqa Governorate.

He also called on sport and youth clubs to offer the necessary services to the local community and to work towards developing and improving sports activities. Dr. Dahiyat added that his ministry is currently making contacts to set up a special school at Al Hussein Sports City to train and educate promising students in the various sports and games to provide local clubs and unions with qualified staff.

The minister also visited a number of sports centres and clubs for the handicapped in the governorate and examined their needs and problems.

Lewis makes comeback in highjump event

WALNUT, California (R) — American Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis captured the Mount San Antonio College Relays long jump, an event he has not competed in for almost a year.

Lewis, who underwent arthroscopic surgery on his left knee last September, won the long jump Sunday with a wind-aided leap of 8.77 metres.

"I'm not dead and gone and out of it. I'm not too old," Lewis said afterwards.

The 25-year-old Lewis put together an impressive series of

leaps of 8.63, 8.64, 8.77 and three at 8.66 metres. His best jump within the wind limit of two metres per second was 8.66.

The competition in the long jump was Lewis' first since June 20, 1986 and marked his 49th straight victory in the event dating back to 1981.

The American, who has turned out lacklustre efforts in the past two years, said he now feels in better condition to perform.

"The difference this year is emotional," he said. "The last two years I was not mentally into it."

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European league roundup

Maradona, Pfaff display their talents

LONDON (R) — Diego Maradona, that scorer of sublime goals, and goalkeeper Jean-Marie Pfaff, the master of the reflex save, gave towering performances at the weekend as their clubs stayed top of their respective leagues.

In Italy Maradona thrilled a crowd of 82,468 with the second goal, which he dedicated to his new-born daughter, in Napoli's 2-1 home win over AC Milan. The victory preserved its two-point lead over Internazionale, who beat Fiorentina 1-0 at home.

Pfaff, who played a leading role in Belgium's unexpected run to the 1986 World Cup semifinals where two goals by Maradona killed its title ambitions, saved a penalty as Bayern Munich beat Bochum 2-1.

The result left Bayern still four points ahead of Hamburg SV, 2-1 winner over Bayer Uerdingen, and meant the Bavarian team has now gone 22 away games without defeat in the West German League.

"Maradona's magic evaporates the fear," was how La Gazzetta

Dello Sport summed up the Argentine's response to the bout of nervousness which overtook Napoli following its 3-0 defeat by Verona before Easter.

Inter is showing signs of viewing the pursuit of Napoli as a lost cause. "We have about a four per cent chance of winning now," said goalkeeper Walter Zenga. "Maybe we should get ourselves a little wizard from somewhere."

Injuries have contributed to Inter's pessimism. Karl-Heinz Rummenigge did not play Sunday. Alessandro Alkobelli has a suspected fractured rib and may miss the next two games, and Marco Tardelli is out for the rest of the season with broken bones in his left hand.

Pfaff's performance — his penalty stop was one of many brilliant efforts — followed his acclaimed contribution three days earlier to Bayern's success in reaching the European Cup final at the expense of Real Madrid.

Bayern, missing injured captain Klaus Augenthaler, who was sent off against Real in Madrid,

and sick midfielder Michael Rummenigge, were soon in trouble in Bochum when Uwe Leifeld shot the home side into a 15th minute lead.

Andreas Brehme struck back two minutes later and after Pfaff saved Josef Nebl's penalty on the hour, Lothar Matthaus scored to give Bayern both points.

Borussia Moenchengladbach, so unimpressive in its home defeat to Dundee United in the UEFA Cup last Wednesday, bounced back with a 7-2 rout of Waldhof Mannheim. Midfielder Uwe Rahn, largely inconspicuous against Dundee, scored four and led on another.

Benfica, at the top of the Portuguese League, dropped a point in a disappointing 0-0 draw at Academica, allowing European Cup finalists Porto to cut its lead to four points with a 2-1 win over Boavista.

There was no league action Sunday in Spain ahead of the national team's European Championship match in Romania on Wednesday.

American NBA playoffs

Pistons crush Washington

NEW YORK (AP) — The Detroit Pistons' only worry with a 2-0 series lead over Washington is that they might have awakened sleeping giant Moses Malone.

The Pistons set a National Basketball Association playoff record by building a 76-36 halftime lead over the Bullets before winning the second game of the best-of-five series 128-85.

Rick Mahorn, who has combined with Bill Laimbeer and Adrian Dantley to put a defensive net on Malone, holding him to 31 points in two games, went out of his way to praise the Bullets' centre.

"Moses is the ultimate centre," Mahorn said. "Stopping Moses is like trying to stop a rock from

going through a window. I expect a dogfight down there (in game 3 at Landover, Maryland)."

Malone said he was embarrassed by the defeat. "When they come to Washington, we should try to run up 200 on them," Malone said. "But I don't think they rubbed it in. I would have done the same thing."

In other playoff games Sunday, Boston defeated Chicago 105-96. Philadelphia beat Milwaukee 125-122 in overtime. Portland tripped Houston 111-98 and Atlanta edged Indiana 94-93.

The Celtics, Hawks and Pistons lead their series 2-0, while Philadelphia-Milwaukee and Portland-Houston are tied 1-1.

Soviet gymnasts sweep U.S. team

DENVER (AP) — Unheralded Valery Lyukin won the men's all-around title as the Soviet Union swept the team competition awards against a U.S. squad in the McDonald's Gymnastics Challenge.

Lyukin recorded a pair of perfect 10s during the weekend meet to outdial world-champion countryman Yuri Korolev for the all-around title in the men's event on Sunday.

American Kristie Phillips took

the women's all-around on Saturday. The 15-year-old won the balance beam with a 9.875 and had 9.9s in two other events.

Soviet coach Leonid Arkaev said he expected good things from the 5-foot-4 (1.6-metre), 123-pound (55-kilogramme) Lyukin.

"We rated Valery very high," Arkaev said. "We've been working with him for a long time, preparing him for international competition. He's had good re-

American Loughinis wins 3-metre springboard diving

AMERSFOORT, Netherlands (AP) — American diver Greg Loughinis won the men's three-metre springboard event in the Fina World Cup diving competition, with Min Gao of China winning the women's three-metre event.

Among the men, Tan Liangde of China finished second, and American Kent Ferguson and Li Deliang of China third and fourth respectively.

Soviet competitor Irina Lashko finished second among the women, with Brita Baldus of East Germany in third and Marina Babkova, also of the Soviet Union, in fourth position.

sults for some time now."

Arkaev said all the gymnasts who competed here "have real potential to be on our Olympic team next year."

"I wasn't really surprised," said Lyukin of his all-around title. "I wanted to win."

Lyukin has had limited international experience. He placed fourth in the all-around and first in the vault at the Goodwill Games last year.

Facing the formidable Korolev, the only gymnast ever to have won two all-around titles in the world championships, Lyukin never flinched. He took the lead after the second of six events — carrying a 10 in the pommel horse.

He tied Korolev for first place in the next event, the still rings, and then finished either ahead of or tied with the champion in the remaining events. Lyukin capped his performance with another 10 in the horizontal bar.

Lyukin finished with 59.70 points, followed by Korolev with 59.50 and another Soviet gymnast, Valentin Mogilny, at 58.100.

The Soviets, dominating every event, easily clinched the team title with 295.70 points to 289.85 for the Americans.

Ballesteros gets top seed, tough draw

CHEPSTOW, Wales (AP) — Seve Ballesteros of Spain was given the top seed and a tough draw Monday for the Epsom Grand Prix of Europe match-play golf tournament.

Ballesteros could face at least five veterans of Europe's Ryder Cup teams in his half of the field in the £250,000 (\$400,000) tournament at the St. Pierre golf course May 7-10.

Bernhard Langer of West Germany heads the other half of the draw, after finishing second on the 1986 European PGA money-winning list. Langer was given a special spot in the field despite playing too few European tournaments last season to automatically qualify.

The defending champion, Ove Sjöberg of Sweden, was not given a seed. The seedings were determined on last season's final money-winning list, where Sjöberg finished out of the top eight.

World hockey tourney moves from ice rink to Viennese courtroom

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — A Viennese judge will be asked to decide whether Sweden or Finland will play for medals at the World Hockey Championships.

Earlier in the tournament, the International Ice Hockey Federation nullified West German victories against Canada and Finland but had to temporarily restore the points after a judge granted the Germans an injunction.

According to the IIHF, the West German side fielded an ineligible player, Miroslav Sikora, who played for Poland at the World Junior Championships in 1977 and thus could not play for Germany here.

With the points restored to the Germans, Finland, with six points, will play in the relegation pool and Sweden, with eight, will fight in the four-team playoffs.

Canada, the Soviet Union and

Czechoslovakia qualified for the playoffs without having to depend on a court decision.

"It is ridiculous that a judge should decide on an important matter of sport," said the president of the IIHF, Gunther Sabetzky, when he announced that the ruling body of world hockey will fight the injunction.

"If things like this happen you wouldn't need any World or European Championships. It would be just courts championships," Sabetzky said.

He added that the championship would continue "according to the table made by the Vienna court."

IIHF lawyers said they were confident of success at the court hearing.

In the last round matches of the preliminaries played on Sunday, Canada beat Finland 7-2 and de-

fending world champion the Soviet Union defeated Sweden 4-2.

In the remaining matches of the 7th round, which virtually have no effect on the standings, West Germany meets Switzerland and the United States faces Czechoslovakia.

An empty net goal by Sergei Makarov of the Soviet Union with 27 seconds remaining in the match destroyed all Swedish hopes for at least a tie.

It was 3-2 in Soviets' favour, and with about thirty seconds to go, Sweden replaced its goalie with a sixth outfield player.

But pulling the goalie off rarely works, and it did not this time either.

Left alone, the deadly Soviet attacker Makarov slowly skated closer to the empty Swedish net and just pushed the puck in.

"It was very hard to play against the Russians when we did not know what the ruling by the IIHF was before the match," said Swedish coach Tomi Sandlin.

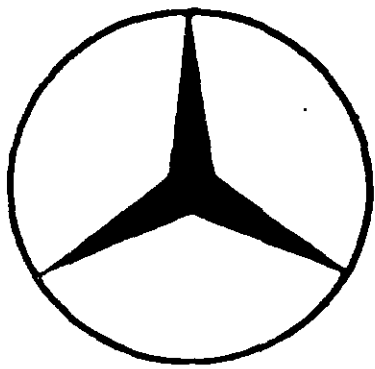
The Swedes put up a stiff resistance against the Soviet team, which is targeting an unprecedented 21st world title.

Anders Carlsson put the Scandinavians ahead at 5:36 of the first period on a close-range powerplay goal.

Sergei Starikov tied the score for the Soviets at 11:56 of the same period, and Vladimir Krutov put them 2-1 ahead at only 46 seconds into the middle session.

Carlsson's second goal again tied the score at 9:03 of the second period, but Sergei Svetlov netted for the Soviets at 14:18 of the session for a 3-2 lead.

Soviet coach Viktor Tikhonov accused Canadian referee Charles Banfield of "doing everything in his power" to help the Swedes score at least a tie against his team.



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Sri Lanka reports 400 killed in anti-rebel offensive

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (Agencies) — The Sri Lankan government said Monday that 400 Tamil militants were killed in northern and eastern provinces during a five-day offensive against rebel strongholds.

Tilak Ratnakara, chairman of the government's media centre, told the Associated Press that 230 were killed in eastern Trincomalee and Batticaloa and 150 died in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

The offensive began after Tamil terrorists exploded a bomb in Colombo's downtown bus terminal Tuesday, killing 109 people. Most of the victims were Sinhalese.

On Sunday, ground troops assaulted rebel bunkers in Jaffna, 300 kilometres north of Colombo. Scores of air raids were reported last week against suspected rebel hideouts in eastern parts of the country.

Mr. Ratnakara said some of the victims in last week's air strikes could be Tamil civilians. He said the government had warned civilians to stay clear of militant hideouts.

The government has cut civilian telephone lines to Jaffna, making it impossible to confirm reports by phone.

Tamil guerrillas are fighting for a separate nation in Sri Lanka.

The Tamils, who are mostly Hindus, make up 18 per cent of the nation's 16 million people. Buddhist Sinhalese make up about 75 per cent and control most of the government and military. The rest are Muslims and other minorities.

Tamils say they are discriminated against in the jobs, education and use of their language.

More than 5,500 people have been killed in four years of civil war. Thousands of people streamed back to work Monday in Colombo.

The government Sunday lifted a near-total curfew clamped on Colombo after the car-bomb explosion.

Hospital sources said three of the injured died Sunday raising the death toll to 109.

Two Tamil rebel groups, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and its ally, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of students, were blamed by the government for the blast. Both organisations denied the accusation.

Meanwhile, a guerrilla land-

mine killed eight security men in Sri Lanka's eastern district of Trincomalee Sunday, authorities said, as President Junius Jayewardene, speaking in the south, asked opposition political parties to help eliminate terrorism.

Mr. Jayewardene told a meeting Sunday in Karadeniya that the difference of opinion between the government and other democratic opposition parties seemed to be about the steps necessary to eliminate terrorists and terrorism.

He said: "We all agree on certain principles in the present situation faced by the country. If so why cannot all democratic political parties cooperate with the government in its efforts to protect these principles?"

Opposition parties have criticised the government's handling of the ethnic conflict. Banks and markets opened Monday and city streets were filled with people returning to work after a tense week. Customers crowded shopping centres.

The Colombo Tea Auction, the biggest in the world, was held as scheduled Monday morning and brokers prepared to hold other auctions for rubber and spices during the week. These sales had been disrupted last week.

Security forces were on maximum alert and patrolled key locations in the capital.

Meanwhile, a guerrilla land-

Salvagers refloat wrecked U.K. ferry

ZEEBRUGGE, Belgium (R) — The British car ferry Herald of Free Enterprise, which capsized on March 6 with a loss of about 200 lives, was refloated Monday off the Belgian coast and was expected to be towed into port later.

The Dutch salvage firm Smit Tak reported the ship afloat after three hours of pumping out thousands of tonnes of water and sludge.

By midday, tugs and giant floating cranes were set to begin half-pulling, half-carrying the battered wreck back into Zeebrugge Harbour, Hans Walenkamp, head of the salvage operation, said.

The ferry keeled over while on a routine night crossing to England.

So far, 176 bodies, nearly all Britons, have been recovered from the wreck, about 20 other bodies are believed to be trapped inside.

A first attempt to raise the cargo-laden vessel was abandoned last Friday night during similar pumping operations when the ship suddenly listed dangerously.

Giant pumps alongside the Herald, which had been resting on a sandbank about one mile offshore, restarted at dawn Monday.

Reporters and sightseers walked out along Zeebrugge's harbour walls Monday to watch the wreck brought back into harbour.

Once the Herald is anchored at a temporary berth just inside the harbour, Belgian and British navy divers will go aboard and start searching for the remains of those still entombed in the ship.

Officials say it may be several days before the exact death toll from the disaster, the worst in the channel since World War II, is finally established.

In weekend preparations, salvage teams repositioned floating cranes alongside the wreck to provide better support to the ship's bow, which had dipped and flooded during last Friday's abortive first attempt.

He lashed out at the British minister's suggestion that his country was seeking a free lunch over defence.

New Zealand was now for the first time paying its way in defence with a policy of self-reliance and a programme of modernisation of its armed forces, he said.

Howe, who was pursued around Wellington by a handful of angry anti-nuclear demonstrators, himself acknowledged that his talks with Mr. Lange had at times been "plain spoken."

He made clear at a separate news conference that Mr. Lange's ban on nuclear-ship visits, which has led to the suspension of New Zealand's defence cooperation with the United States and halted visits by British and American warships, could trigger a European Community trade backlash.

He said Britain would continue to help New Zealand sell its dairy produce in the EC and then pointedly added:

"But with your current defence policy, it is a fact of life that your cause is less likely to prevail in the European Community, 11 of whose 12 members also belong to NATO."

Mr. Lange retorted by accusing farming interests in Britain of seeking to exploit New Zealand's foreign policy to disguise a protectionist argument.

The National Elections Com-

Nixon calls for nuclear missile deal for Asia

NEW YORK (R) — Nuclear weapons should be eliminated from Asia if the United States and the Soviet Union agree to remove intermediate-range missiles from Europe, former President Richard Nixon said in an interview.

Mr. Nixon told Time magazine in the interview published Sunday that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev proposed the so-called zero option earlier this month because he was looking at a broad political and military picture for the future.

"If we're going to have the zero option in Europe, we've got to have it in Asia, too," he told Time, adding that if Washington pressed Moscow to displace arms in Asia, Mr. Gorbachev would find it difficult to turn down the United States.

Mr. Nixon, who resigned the presidency in 1974, said President Reagan would oppose any agreement with Moscow if he leaves office without signing an accord.

"It's possible that Gorbachev now wants to get Reagan involved in arms control, give him a stake in the process, so that he won't mobilise opposition to it in the future."

Mr. Nixon said the zero option must be kept in perspective.

"If we get rid of all those missiles covered by the offer, we're still talking about less than

three per cent of the 50,000 warheads in the world," he stated.

He said the United States should re-establish linkage between "our concern with the Soviet superiority in land-based nuclear weapons and the Soviets' concern with SDI," Mr. Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative space-based missile defence plan.

"One way for us to counter their offensive buildup is to defend our missile sites. We should make clear to the Soviets that we'll do this only to the extent necessary, given the threat that their missiles pose to our deterrent."

Mr. Nixon added: "I call this the comprehensive compromise. It's simply not going to work to tell this president to give up SDI. What I'm proposing is that SDI should go forward, concentrating on defence of our missile sites. Then you'll be able to have negotiations with the Soviets on defence."

Mr. Nixon told Time that the question of Soviet superiority in conventional weapons also must be addressed.

"I think we should make a condition that ... when we are removing our cruise and Pershing missiles from Europe, the last withdrawals should not take place unless the problem of Soviet conventional superiority has been rectified," he said.

Sikh extremists kill 6 in continuing Punjab violence

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — Suspected Sikh extremists killed an elderly couple in Punjab early Monday and four other people, including a border guard, Sunday night, police said.

The six deaths brought the toll this month in separatist-related violence in the north Indian state to 81, according to an unofficial count.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said 80-year-old Sikh Narnjan Singh Sewadar and his 70-year-old wife were shot in a village near Hoshiarpur. There was no immediate explanation for the attack.

A police spokesman in Chandigarh, the Punjab capital, said Inspector K.K. Sharma of the

Paramilitary Border Security Force was killed when extremists fired at a post in Atwal village.

About four assailants who attacked the post in Gurdaspur district about 20 kilometres from the Pakistan border, escaped before they could be challenged, the spokesman said.

"Personnel managing the post were surprised by the attack and failed to return the fire," he said.

Extremists campaigning for a separate Sikh homeland in Punjab sprayed bullets at a grocery shop at Dhariwal near Amritsar, killing the owner and one other, the spokesman said. Another person was gunned down in neighbouring village.

India announces review of nuclear policy

NEW DELHI (R) — India said Monday it had decided to review its nuclear policy, hitherto restricted to peaceful uses, because of what it called an "emerging nuclear threat" from Pakistan.

Addressing the Lower House of Parliament, Defence Minister K.C. Pant said: "The emerging nuclear threat to us from Pakistan is forcing us to review our options."

He said India had finally decided to develop nuclear weapons but his statement appeared to indicate that this was now considered a possibility.

Indonesian opposition charges vote rigging

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's Muslim-based United Development Party (PPP) has filed a formal protest charging widespread electoral fraud in its traditional provincial stronghold of Aceh, a party official said Monday.

President Suharto's ruling Golkar Party triumphed in all 27 provinces in last week's general election, including Aceh, on the north western tip of Sumatra, which it had not won in three previous elections.

The PPP leader in Aceh, Gazali Amnah, told Reuters Monday by telephone that voters were intimidated and the balloting was manipulated.

The National Elections Com-

mission had no immediate comment on the charges. But Golkar Chairman Sudharmono told a news conference on Saturday: "Anyone can complain, but one must prove there were irregularities. If no proof is given, it means the allegations are aimed only at discrediting Golkar."

Virtually complete returns showed Golkar beating PPP by 120,000 out of the nearly 1.5 million votes that were cast in the province, which rebelled against Jakarta's rule in the 1950s.

Nationwide, Golkar thrashed its rivals by taking nearly 73 per cent of the vote, while the PPP saw its share dwindle to 16 per cent from 28 per cent in the last election five years ago.

It was the worst electoral performance in the world's largest Islamic country by any Muslim party since Mr. Suharto rose to power 21 years ago.

Mr. Ghazali said the protest letter accuses Golkar of giving out ballot forms to underage teenagers, forcing PPP witnesses in voting stations to leave the area and employing a variety of "dirty tricks" during the campaigning period.

The protest alleges some Golkar supporters were mailed up to five voting forms, while some PPP supporters were not mailed any, Mr. Ghazali said. The forms are required in order to get a ballot at the voting station.

The commission was established by the U.N. General Assembly in 1983 with a mandate to deal with environment and development together, rather than as separate topics.

A sympathetic critic, in an assessment timed to coincide with publication of the report, said that it "is not actually a very good book on environment and development" but it still should be studied carefully because of the unusual nature of the commission.

"It is precisely because the commissioners are not environmentalists that their report is important," Lloyd Timberlake, a British writer and consultant to the commission, wrote in the journal People, published by the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

Timberlake said the commissioners were mostly mature politicians who "found their thinking radically changed" as they attended hearings around the world on the link between environment and development.

The U.S. Representative was William Ruckelshaus, former head of the Environmental Protection Agency. Mansour Khalid, a former foreign minister of Sudan, was vice chairman, and other commissioners came from the Soviet Union, China, African countries, Japan and elsewhere.

Abu Dhabi crown prince leaves hospital

ABU DHABI (R) — The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zaid Al Nahayan, has left a Zurich hospital in good health, the Emirates News Agency WAM reported Monday. Sheikh Khalifa, 39, entered the hospital on March 31 for treatment of an undisclosed illness. WAM said he would remain in Switzerland on a private visit. Sheikh Khalifa, oldest son of UAE President Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan, is also deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

Man blew up house by mistake

CLERMONT-FERRAND, France (R) — A man who tried to remove a stain from his clothes by using petrol in his washing machine instead of detergent succeeded only in blowing up his house, police said. They said the man and two other occupants of the house in Clermont-Ferrand were unhurt, but the explosion, caused by a spark that ignited the petrol, destroyed the ground floor of the building.

Hooligans kill, rob and molest students

PEKING (R) — Gangs of hooligans have this year killed, robbed and terrorised children at schools in north-east China, the second region of the country to be hit by such a crime wave, an official Chinese newspaper said Monday. In the worst incident, a secondary-school student was stabbed to death in a schoolyard in the port city of Dalian by four robbers last month, the Liaoning Daily said. Other gangs of young criminals have extorted money from students and harassed girls, the newspaper said. In the city of Benxi last month a gang of young criminals invaded a school canteen and forced pupils eating lunch to take down their trousers, beating those who refused, it added. The newspaper said such attacks were continuing despite improved security in schools. Earlier this month the China Daily said schoolchildren in the south east city of Canton were the victims of robberies and extortion by teenage gangs. The gangs, which lie in wait for children outside schools and intimidate them into bringing money or foreign cigarettes, were "a big threat to social order," it added.

Police protect bishop before consecration

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — A group of policemen Sunday escorted Monsignor Kurt Krenn into St. Stephen's Cathedral to protect him from demonstrators prior to his consecration as Suffragan of Vienna. Krenn's appointment as bishop by Pope John Paul II in March brought strong protests from Catholic priests and laymen, who consider him too conservative. There were also critical comments from some Austrian bishops who disagreed with the way Krenn was nominated. The Catholic community complained in numerous statements that it had not been consulted by the Pope. Austrian television showed two policemen walking with Krenn arm-in-arm, while other policemen crowded around them as protesters lay on the ground to symbolically obstruct access to the church. The roughly 20 non-violent Catholic activists did not resist police, and no detentions were reported. The Austrian Catholic Church has been relatively liberal regarding such questions as birth control, and Krenn's appointment was seen by some as a possible hardening of church policy. During high mass in the cathedral, there were no incidents, but police waited for the newly consecrated Suffragan bishop after the service to escort him to a waiting car.

Airline worker gets life sentence

DHAKA (R) — A car driver who worked for Biman Bangladesh Airlines was sentenced by a special tribunal to life imprisonment with hard labour for trying to smuggle gold worth \$62,000 last August, legal officials have said. They said customs officers at Dhaka airport arrested Abdul Malek following a tip-off and seized 31 gold bars hidden in the cushion of his vehicle. Four other Biman employees, including the chief purser of an airliner, are awaiting trial for trying to smuggle in gold worth more than \$130,000 earlier this month. They were arrested by customs agents after the plane arrived from Abu Dhabi on April 3.

New Swedish jetfighter unveiled

LINKÖPING, Sweden (AP) — Sweden has unveiled a prototype of its new jet fighter, a sleek delta-wing aircraft that designers said can switch from interceptor to reconnaissance or attack fighter with the flip of a computer programme. About 1,000 Swedish and foreign air force officers and guests watched the plane displayed in a mist of swirling smoke and flashing lights at a ceremony at the hangars of Saab-Scania, the builders. Called the JAS 39 Gripen, Swedish for "griffin" the 14-metre-long jet has been five years in development. It is scheduled to make its first test flight later this year and be operational in 1992. "This plane can serve in attack, interception or reconnaissance functions by switching the software of the computer and the weaponry," Saab Communications Director Rolf Erichs told reporters. Sweden hopes to sell the plane to Switzerland, which is replacing its fleet of about 50 aging French-built Mirage aircraft in the next decade. The Gripen will have to compete for the Swiss contract with three U.S. firms, as well as the French Mirage and the Israeli Lavi. Company officials said Finland and Denmark are other potential markets for the plane. Sweden seeks buyers to help offset the estimated \$7-billion development cost, but it is forbidden by Swedish law to sell to countries at war or in volatile regions. Saab officials said they expected the plane to cost about \$13 million each, and 140 are due to be produced by the end of the century.

Vandals try to ruin memorial ceremony

LONDON (R) — Vandals tried to ruin a ceremony attended by more than 3,000 people in London's Hyde Park to remember the Jews who died under Nazi rule in Europe, a ceremony organiser said. Rona Hart, a member of the board of deputies of British Jews, said the park's stone Holocaust memorial was drenched with white paint but most was removed in time for the ceremony, held on Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day observed annually by Jews. The vandals left a placard nearby bearing the word "perdition," the title of a controversial play showing that some Jewish leaders collaborated with the Nazis during World War II to try to save Zionists from death camps at the expense of other Jews. The premiere of the play, by British author Jim Allen, was cancelled in January after historians questioned its accuracy and alleged it was anti-Semitic.

Drugs may block pain without numbness

NEW YORK (AP) — Drugs that use a new approach to blocking pain gave relief without producing numbness in laboratory animals, and may prove useful for arthritis and backaches as well as cuts and burns, a scientist says. The research is the first to show that Bradykinin Antagonists, invented a few years ago, can relieve pain, said Dr. Solomon Snyder. The drugs prevent a natural substance called Bradykinin from activating pain-sensing nerves next to an injury, said Snyder, director of the Neuroscience Department at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore. Snyder reports the studies this week in the European Journal of Pharmacology, along with Larry Stranaka and others of Nova Pharmaceutical Corp. in Baltimore and Raymond Vavrek and John Stewart of the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Nova plans to start tests in humans within the next few months, Snyder said in a recent telephone interview. Snyder is a Nova co-founder and stockholder. Another pain expert said that while Bradykinin Antagonists are not yet proven superior to standard painkillers, the fact that they act through a different mechanism means they may prove useful when traditional painkillers fail, or in combination with current drugs. "I'm delighted that it works," said Dr. Howard Fields, neurology and physiology professor at the University of California.

Casey in critical condition

GLEN COVE, New York (R) — Former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Casey, a central figure in the Iran arms scandal, remains in critical condition with pneumonia in a suburban New York hospital, officials have said.

Renee Palsey, spokeswoman for Glen Cove Community Hospital on Long Island, told Reuters Sunday night that Mr. Casey's family had asked "that there be no official statements about Mr. Casey whatsoever and the hospital is abiding by that."

But a nursing supervisor said family members were at the bedside and a spokeswoman said earlier that Mr. Casey, 74, was suffering from aspiration pneumonia, fluid in his lungs, and was in critical condition in the intensive care unit.

He was admitted Saturday, the spokeswoman said.

Mr. Casey, CIA chief since January 1981, had a brain seizure in his office in December while congressional hearings were being held into the arms scandal.

He subsequently had an operation for a malignant brain tumour and resigned in January. He was replaced by William Webster, former director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

As CIA chief, Mr. Casey boosted the agency's budget, upgraded its ability to forecast crises and presided over its return to vigour after years on the defensive due to charges of involvement in assassination plots.

But his stewardship came under fire late in 1986 during inquiries into the secret sales of arms to Iran when it was reported that CIA bank accounts in Switzerland were used as part of a scheme to divert arms sales profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SEADY
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WHERE'S THE ENTRY?

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 5
♥ A J 9 6 4 2
♦ 8 5 4 2
♣ 7 5

EAST
♠ K J 7 3 2
♥ A Q 9 6 4
♦ Q 10 7 3
♣ J 8
♦ 9 8 3

SOUTH
♠ 10 8
♥ Void
♦ A K 7 6
♣ A K Q 10 6 4 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ 1 ♠
2 ♦ 2 ♣ Pass Pass
5 ♣ 2 ♣ Pass Pass
Opening lead: Three of ♣

If the opponents thwart one of your plans, don't blindly pursue that path. Cast around for an alternative line that will give you a shot at your contract.

In the modern style, South's reverse bid of two diamonds is forcing for one round. However, West's bid removed any obligation from

North, who seized the opportunity to show his weakness by passing. South then bid what he hoped he could make.

West's trump lead struck a telling blow for his side; with any other lead, declarer would have had time to ruff a spade in dummy. Had declarer doggedly won and led a spade, West would win and play another trump, and declarer would have to surrender two spade tricks and a diamond.

One spade could go on the ace of hearts if declarer could find a way to get to the table in time. The only suit that offered any transportation was diamonds, and for that to succeed it would have to break 3-2. Since declarer would need the second trump in dummy to control spades, he immediately cashed the ace-king of diamonds, and when both defenders followed all was well. Declarer led a third round of the suit and he was in control.

No matter what the defenders did, declarer was home. West ruffed the third diamond and led another trump, but the eighth of diamonds was declarer's entry to the board to take a spade discard on the ace of hearts, and all was well.

Report urges development to protect environment

LONDON (AP) — A prestigious international panel started a season of fanfare Monday to advance environmental concerns to the forefront of efforts to improve living standards around the globe.

After a three-year study, the 21-member panel — drawn from poor countries as well as the West and the Soviet Bloc — published a 383-page report titled Our Common Future.

It urges sweeping changes in the way decisions are made around the world on development and the environment.

The World Commission on Environment and Development scheduled a ceremony to present copies of the report to young people from nine countries, representing the world's youth who, the report says, "have the most to lose" if the environment is not carefully protected.

The Norwegian Prime Minister, Gro Harlem Brundtland, is chairman of the commission and is to preside at the ceremony.

The report is to be given to heads of government, discussed at a wide range of international forums, and forwarded to the United Nations General Assembly this fall with a recommendation to start a "programme of sustainable development."

"The next few decades are crucial," the report says. "The

time has come to break out of past patterns."

It called for a "vast campaign of education, debate and public participation. This campaign must start now if sustainable human progress is to be achieved."

The report does not prescribe a full programme for ways to safeguard the environment while hastening development. Rather, it outlines serious and well-known problems and urges that the world seek new ways of tackling them.

Among the problems they considered were population growth, energy strategies including nuclear energy, the disparity between trillion-dollar annual world expenditure on arms and the small sums that go to environmental protection, global warming due to atmospheric changes, economic conditions that lead to ravaging of tropical forests, and man-made disasters like the Chernobyl nuclear reactor explosion and the Bhopal chemical tragedy in India.

Here are some extracts from the report:

Nuclear power: There have been two serious nuclear reactor accidents — at Three Mile Island in the United States and Chernobyl in the Soviet Union — and the problem of nuclear waste disposal remains unsolved.

The generation of nuclear

power is only justifiable if there are solid solutions to the presently unsolved problems to which it gives rise.

Energy: Greater efficiency could save half the energy currently consumed, and give time to develop "renewable energy sources" like geothermal, solar, biomass and hydroelectric that do not pollute or pose the danger of warming up the atmosphere.

Population: "Present rates of population growth cannot continue." Predictions show world population growing to 6.1 billion in 2000 and to 8.2 billion in 2025 compared with 4.8 billion in 1985. "The very possibility of development can be compromised by high population growth rates."

World economy: Some poor countries have foreign debts that lead them to over-exploit forests, croplands and mineral deposits. Commodity prices dropped 30 per cent between 1980 and 1985, so poor countries may earn less even if they deplete their environment to export more.

Food: Subsidies paid to efficient farmers in North America and Europe depress prices, leading to less incentive for traditional farmers in poor countries.

The report says 730 million people did not get enough to eat to lead productive working lives in 1985.

The commission was established by the U.N. General Assembly in 1983 with a mandate to deal with environment and development together, rather than as separate topics.

A sympathetic critic, in an assessment timed to coincide with publication of the report, said that it "is not actually a very good book on environment and development" but it still should be studied carefully because of the unusual nature of the commission.

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The U.S. Representative was William Ruckelshaus, former head of the Environmental Protection Agency. Mansour Khalid, a former foreign minister of Sudan, was vice chairman, and other commissioners came from the Soviet Union, China, African countries, Japan and elsewhere.

سكينة الحارثي